

An Historical
ACCOUNT
OF THE
Late Great Frost,
In which are
DISCOVERED,
In several
Comical Relations,
The Various
Humours, Loves, Cheats, and
Intreagues of the Town, as the same
were mannaged upon the
River of THAMES,
during that Season.

Quicquid agunt homines-----

-----Nostri est Ferrago libelli. JUV.

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An Historical

EPITOME

OF THE
REIGN OF
EDWARD

THE FIRST

OF THE
HOUSE OF
PLANTAGENET

BY
JOHN RICHARDSON

OF THE
MIDDLE TEMPLE

ESQ.

THE
EPISTLE
TO THE
READER.

READER,

IN the following Leaves
you will find a Subject
of Recreation and Novel-
ty, which, tho not Rheto-
rically Adorned with the
Shining Beauties of Ex-
pression, and Glorious
Trophies of Exalted Wit,
yet is the same Decent,

A 2 Array-

The Epistle

Arrayed in the Plain Ho-
nest Garb of Good Hu-
mour; The Language is
Suited to those that Speak
it, and the Theme they
Speak of. In short, 'tis
not my Design to promise
beyond my performance,
or to mention in the Bill
of Fare, more then the
Entertainment will afford
thee. If thou hast an Ap-
petite, I'm sure thou'lt
find something to satisfy
be same. For though the
Qua-

to the Reader.

Quality nor Quantity be
extraordinary, yet in the
Variety thou'lt meet with
one Dish or other to please
thy Palate, here being
something of every thing,
and what most of you like,
two or three Choice prepa-
rations of well drest cleanly
B-- not too high Coloured
to make you Nauseate the
same, (tho it may reflect a
Blush in Tender Cheeks,
till the concluding Taste)
which is so Gently wrⁿ

The Epistle

of, that the Modestest
Matron will not be offend-
ed at it: And besides a Dish
or two for the Good Wives,
to Teach them Obedience to
their Husbands, & others
to Teach them Kindness to
their Wives: With sever-
al other wholesome Pro-
visions, to prevent the
Frauds and Cheats of the
Town, and all this attend-
ed with a Regalio, prepa-
red chiefly for the Louers
be I warrantment; So that
with

to the Reader.

without Fear you may be
pleased to fall to, and I
dare be bold to say, un-
less some Critical Whigg
finds fault with the Sour-
ness of the Sauce, which
some part of this little
Feast is Served up in, there
will be few other Enemies
to the unknown Host, who
values not their Censure,
whilst on the general he
preserves himself in your
good Opinion.

An

To the Reader

Without fear you may be
satisfied to find that I
have not sold to the
the same Critical Writings
find fault with the same
acts of the same, which
some part of this little
craft is served up in there
will be for other Humours
to the unknown Host, who
values not their Censures,
while on the general be
preserves himself in your
Good Opinion.

Ad

(1)

A N

Historical Account

ON THE

LATE FROST.

TO perpetuate the Memorial of what in any age hath been admirable, was always Esteemed a work grateful to mankind in general, in that hereby we are taught the Truth of that saying of the Wise Man, *That there is no new thing under the Sun*; altho if we examine the Treasuries of our Eldest Remembrances, we cannot Trace a president of what the ensuing Relation will give the Account of; yet have we heard (tho before we entertained only a faint sort of belief thereof, our *Almanacks* being the chiefest Testimony of the same) that the like hath been: and as I am

B

now

now to Treat of our *Late Frost*, it is not altogether Impertinent to mention what remarks in former Ages have been made of others that have happened in this our *Isle*: The examination whereof, as the same hath been referable to time, we may find it Recorded of one, whose Continuance lasted much longer then this we speak of, and that we must Tread backwards 320 years in the Account of Historians to Treat of, the same beginning about the midst of *September* and continuing till *April* ensuing, near 7 Months space: But of this, whether the same were so violent as ours, is Buried in silence; but admitting that it were, it was certainly the admiration of that Age, as this hath been of ours. A Second, which tho I cannot find the date of its length, yet in time it happened about 118 years past, of this, its sudden Thaw was held more remarkable, then either its continuance or any other Circumstance there of

thereof mentioned in our Records, for that the same was so unexpectedly broke, that many Bridges on the most Eminent Rivers in *England* were carried away with it. A Third, about 48 years since. And a Fourth about 7, but these two last, many now living can give Account of, which fall much short of what you'll meet with in this relation of ours which began about the 16th of *December* last, and so sharply set in, that in a Fortnights time, or thereabouts, the River of *Thames*, tho' one might think by the daily Flux and Reflux of her twice returning Tides in the space of 24 hours; and the Native course of her own rapid streams was secured against the force of the hardest Weather; yet this River beyond the Bridge of *London* upwards was all Frozen over, and People began to walk thereon, and Booths were built in many places, where the poor Watermen whose Boats were Lockt up and could not work thereon, for their

usual lively-hood, made a vertue of necessity, and therein retailed Wine, Brandy, Beer, Ale, and other Liquors, which for the Novelty of the same, very few but were in a short time their Customers, and their Trades increasing, their Booths began to increase and be enlarged for the reception of Multitudes of People, who daily resorted thereunto; insomuch that in a short time Road ways were made from place to place, and without any fear or apprehension, the same was Trod by Men, Women and Children, nor were the same only Foot Paths, but soon after *Hackney Coaches* began to Ply upon the River, and found better Custome than if they had continued in the Streets, which were never in the midst of business half so Crowded so that the same became the only Scene of Pleasure in and about *London*; the Fields were deserted, and the River full, and in *Hillary Term*, which soon after ensued, it was as usual for the
 Lawyers

Lawyers to take Coach by Water to *Westminster*; as thro the *Sirand*, and so Publick was the same, that in a short time it obtain'd the Name of *Frost Fair*: A whole Street of Booths contiguous each to the other, was Buile from the *Temple-Stairs* to the *Barge-House* in *Southmark*, which were Inhabited by Traders of all sorts, which usually frequent Fairs and Markets, as those who deal in *Earthen Wares*; *Brass*, *Copper*, *Tinn*, and *Iron*, *Toys* and *Trifles*, and besides these, *Printers*; *Bakers*, *Cooks*, *Butchers*, *Barbers*, *Coffee-men* and others, who were so frequented by the Innumerable Concourse of all degrees and qualities, that by their own Confession, they never met elsewhere the like advantages; every one being willing to say they did lay out such or such Moneys on the River of *Thames*, nor was the Trade only amongst such who were fixt in Booths, but also all sorts of *Cries* which usually are heard in *London Streets*

were there : The *Hawkers* with their News, the *Costermonger* with his Fruit, the Wives with their *Oysters*, *Pyes*, *Ginger-bread*, and such like. Nor was there any Recreation in Season which could not be found there with more advantage then on Land, such as *Foot-Ball Play*, *Nine-pins*, *Cudgells*, *Bull and Bear-Baiting*, and others, which on the occasion was more ordinary, as *Sliding in States*, *Chaires*, and other devises, such as were made of *Sailing-Boats*, *Charriots*, and *Carrow-Whimbles*, so that at one view you might behold the thriving Trader at his Shop, the Sportive at their Recreations, the Laborious with their Burthens at their Backs, and every one with as little concern or fear as if they had Trod the Surface of the more Centred Element. And in all places Smoaking Fires on the Solid Waters, Roasting, Boyling, and preparing Food for the Hungry, and Liquors for the Thirsty, Eating, Drinking and Rejoycing in as great Crowds

Crowds as *Smithfield* in *Bartholomew-Fair* could ever Boast. But as thus farr my Relation only extends to the General, which I doubt not but most of those who were at *London* and in Health can joyn with me in the Truth of, and to whom I speak of no Novelty, their own Eyes having been witnessses of this and much more. So that I shall leave the same and proceed to what may more deserve their Intention, whilst I relate the several Amours, Intreagues; Cheats, and Humours carried on and managed upon the said River during this Season. That so by these as so many *Items* to the Memory of the peruser, they may put him in mind of a Season so Memorable, and the which his Eyes, or perhaps those of his posterity may never see the like again. Nor is it any wonder amongst so great a Concourse and Crowd of People, who daily resorted there unto, there should happen what may be divertive; since very

Rare it is, that any Country Wake or Fair but will afford us something, whose Relation may not be altogether unpleasant, tho *Dick* and *Tom*, with *Joan & Bess*, or such like good Fellows & Lasses were the only Subjects thereof. This then so farr exceeding the same, and where from the Lord to his Lacky, and the Lady to her Maid, downwards in all degrees, were every day intermixt, together with *Bawds*, *Whores*, *Pick-pockets*, *Filts*, and *Cheats* undistinguished, may afford us something more Notable, and amongst others, I shall begin with the Account of two Squires, who came purposely to see this so much talked of Fair, where after they had surveyed the same, it happened that in *Temple-Street* they lost each other, and either of them looking after his Friend, they had Rambled some time about in search of one another, till it fell out as the first drew near to *Dorset*, and thinking to Land, a Lady of the Town, whose eye had been upon

upon him, and thinking him by his Country Garb, a peice of Squireship fit for her management, crosses the path just before him, and feigning a stumble she falls, and discovers what otherwise would have been concealed to the surpris'd Squire, whose assistance she immediately had to restore her to her Feet, which she with a kind of a forced Blush readily accepts of, and returns her thanks for the favour; at which the Squire (being much taken with her Face, and seeming Modesty) bestows an intended Compliment upon her, begging her to make use of his Arm to Assist her in so Slippery a Path, least a Second Mischance of the same Nature might attend her. The Lady not at all shy of his offer, told him, *she could not but be extreemly taken with a Gentleman, whose undeserved Favours she had not in the least merited, and seemed to Wave the trouble he pleas'd so generously to undertake in her behalf; which he still the more urg'd,*
and

and which in some short contest, she quickly consented to, (telling him) he looked as a Person of so much worth, that she hoped he would not make any sinister advantage thereof; the Squire returned her complements, and having waited on her to the Shore, beg'd she would favour him to see her to her Lodgings, which she scrupled, (telling him) that she was the Wife of a Gentleman, whom upon Urgent occasions she had left in Ireland, and was come up to Negotiate some Affairs in London, which could not possibly be effected without her presence, and that the Persons where she Lodged would take notice of his coming thither, perhaps to her disadvantage; the Enamoured Squire was loath to admit of the excuse, but replied, At least Madam, if it may not be convenient to Trespass so far upon you, give me leave to present you with a Bottle of Wine at some Tavern where you may not be known, and assure your selfe, I shall not make any further use of this Honours
then

then what you shall please at any Minute to put a stop to, by the least of your Intimations, that the same is not agreeable to your pleasure. Importunities so generous should not (says the Lady) loose of their prevalency, did I believe that you would not your self condemn a Stranger, and one that had never the happiness of seeing you till this minute, should she consent to what you desire; nor can I, dear Sir, conceal my Blushes for what I have admitted already, and must rather beg your pardon for what is past, then add to a score I shall never be in a capacity to discharge: Discharge Madam! cries our wounded Squire is there any thing on Earth but the value of your presence would not compensate; If such you esteem it, you may Command me for an hour, says our Subtle Lady, being under the security of your generosity, that your intents are Honourable; with this, and the like discourse to this purpose,
did

did our couple repair to a Tavern in
 the *Strand*, where our Squire was no-
 thing but Love, and the Lady design.
 In short, they Drank heartily, and
 Frolicked away a brace of hours, in
 which time the Squire had trespassed
 above Knee, and found his Mistress
 not the most obstinate of her Sex, but
 obligingly civil, nor did he want any
 Incouragement of her being more
 kind to him, which he as eagerly
 prest, nor could he give his desires
 the least rest, without their intire sa-
 tisfaction, which he would have
 there seized, had not his cunning
 Mistress (intending further Game
 with him) put him off, telling him
 the Inconveniencies of the place, and
 the danger of a surprise, which for
 all the World, she would not be ta-
 ken in; but in the mean time the
 Evening drew on, and Melancholy
 increased upon our Squire fearing that
 coming so near his Bliss, he should
 yet miss it, which she taking notice
 of,

of, told him, Sir I cannot but perceive you seem concerned at this disappointment, nor am I less desirous of the accomplishment of our wishes, then your self, for ('tis too late to talk of Modesty in this affair) Women are Flesh and Blood, and have desires as well as you, which I would do much to satisfy; and since it is so, I cannot think of any other way then one, which if you please to undertake, we may be both happy; *Name it dear Madam*, said our eager Squire *and if Heaven be its price, let it go, to purchase this Blessing.* You may remember, says she, I told you I had a Husband in *Ireland*, (but far less dear to me than your self) the parties where I lye have no knowledge of him, so that if you please to personate him as newly thence arrived; we may consummate our intended Amours, and I shall not take it ill you use those expressions as may the better carry on this design; but before
we

we depart, I'll send a Porter for my Servant, whom I must precaution, that she joyn herein, to prevent discoveries. The over-joyed Lover a thousand times repeated his thanks for so great a Favour, and soon agreed the point, the Porter was immediately sent away, and the Servant came with him, whilst nothing but joy and desires made up the Squires minutes, nor did he think them less then hours, till the last and chiefly wish'd for one arrived, which he was not long waiting for : the Servant having received private Instructions from her Lady, went away ; whilst the Squir in the mean time by many Importunities had forced upon his Nominal Spouse a Diamond-Ring as a token of his Favours, and discharged the House; at such time as the Servant came again and acquainted them that Supper was preparing, and all things ready for their Reception, whereupon they took Coach, and quickly drove to
his

his Mistresses Lodgings, where our Squires Arrival was welcomed by the Landlady of the House, and great rejoycing made at his return, but he the nearer he came to his enjoyment was the more impatient, and could not think of Supper, till such time as he had seen his Dears Chamber, (as he termed it) whither she soon conveyed him, the same being well Furnished, and a Fire ready kindled, where they Solaced themselves, and she little Thye of his Embraces, gave him Liberty to use his pleasure, with which he eagerly consummated, commending her Favours, and his own good Fortunes for so great a Blessing, till such time as they were called to Supper, where they fed plentifully, each of their Healths with that of their Landladies and Friends in *Ireland*, keeping their brisk rounds, nothing but Mirth and endearment fill'd the hours, and all imaginable delight Crown'd their Entertainment. But here

here it was our Subtle Lady had her Cards to Play, and put upon the deluded Squire whom instead of her own Lodgings, she had carried to a Bawdy-house of her acquaintance, where consulting with the Old-Beldam, they had agreed to opiate our Esquires Glasses, and cast him into a Drunken-Sleep, the better to work their intended cheat, which they proposed to make no less of then all the moveables the Squire had, which were not Inconsiderable, besides the ready Gilt he had in his Pockets, that amounted to a hundred Guinies, and accordingly did their design take effect; for not suspecting the Cheat, he took off his Wine, which was so craftily tempered, that he fell asleep, and they to search and strip him, which they were not long about, nor much longer, the hour being now near 11, and the Watch scarce set e're they arrayed him in an old Red-coat and Breeches, being the Garb of
one

one of the standing Pimps that belonged to the House, and whose assistance with another of the same occupation they had hired for that purpose, to remove him thence to a lone Booth upon the *Thames*, near *Lambeth*, where without being discovered, they left him, and where we at present will leave him to discourse of his Friend, whose adventures may as well claim a Recital as those you have heard.

For when his Friend had Fruitlessly endeavoured to find him, being about to go to his Lodgings, very cold, he was resolved to strike into a Booth and take a Glass of Wine, and the advantage of the Fire; making enquiry of the Master of the same whether he had seen such a Gentleman as he described our other Squire to be pass that way; To which a Person standing by, much like a Gentleman in his Garb, told him, Sir, *I believe I saw such a Gentleman as you speak of*
about

about a quarter of an hour ago walk by this Booth with a Lady in his hand, and I believe they may be Landed on Lambeth side, to which I saw them Incline. A Lady ! says our present Squire, it cannot then be the same, for I am certain he is not acquainted with any hereabouts ; how know you Sir (says the Landlord) but he may have met with some kind Woman that obliges him with her Company, for if I am not mistaken I remember whom this Gentleman means , if so, he was in a Fair Perriwig, a Broad Gold Laced Cloak, and a Waist-Belt Embroidered ? The very same, replies the Squire Oh Rogue ! has he these tricks, would I could catch him, I would make sport with him in this adventure ? Sir, says the Gentleman, I believe they must return this way, and it may not be very difficult as he comes back to surprise him.

Whether this Discourse was of design or not I cannot learn, though I suppose it might, for under the description

scription abovesaid, had our present
 Squire made Inquiry for his Friend
 all the way he came, and it may
 be thought they heard him, and the
 Master no further then to keep him
 as his Guest in his Booth, though the
 Gentleman to other ends confirmed
 the Story, as the same took effect,
 for the Squire setting down, expecting
 his Friend and Lady, began to drink
 to the Gentleman, and some Persons
 by them being at Play at Cards, says
 the Gentleman, how Sir, if we get a
 Pack of Cards and go to the same
 Sport for a Bottle, by which time
 your Friend may return, with all my
 Heart says the Squire like the diversifi-
 on, whereupon the Cards were
 brought, and the Squire and Gentle-
 man went to it for a Bottle, which
 the Squire won: They renew the sport,
 and then began to Play for Money,
 which in short, our Squire had such
 good luck in, that he won most of the
 Gentlemans Stock, to the value of
 ten

ten or fifteen Guinies, at such time as the Evening approached, and no sight of his Friend, the Gentleman being very desirous to win his Money back that he had lost, perswaded the Squire if he would go on Shore at *Lambeth*, he could obtain Money there of some Relation he had, and he would Play it off, adding that he might perhaps meet the Party whom he was in search of, and surprize him with his Lady at some Tavern thereabouts. The Esq; consented, paid the Reckoning, and went with him, but in vain was the Inquiry for his Friend, no such Person could be heard of, so that the Gentleman having in the mean time Recruited his Pockets, with much perswasion got the Esquire to Play, which he was the more unwilling to in that it grew late, and the danger of passing the *Thames* was objected, but the Gentleman telling him the Moon would shine, and 'twas safe, he sate him down to his Sport, where

where still success attended him, and in 3 or 4 hours (which past the Mer-
 rilier away) being still on the win-
 ning hand) he quite broke the Gen-
 tleman a second time of 20 Guinies,
 which was all he had, about which
 time, and after a parting Bottle, he
 took his way over for *Westminster-*
stairs, the Gentleman telling him he
 had engaged to stay with his Relation
 of whom he borrowed the Moneys
 aforesaid, but told him, if he would, he
 might be supplied with Guides in
 the Town, which he neglecting, went
 all alone for the said place, just as the
 Clock struck Twelve, he was got half
 way over, when he might perceive
 from behind a Booth at some little
 distance, two Red-coats start up, and
 make towards him, being thereat a
 little Surprized, he made his speed the
 greater towards the Shore, but they
 having soon overtook him, came up
 with Pistols charged to his Breast,
 bid him deliver, the Squire in great
 fear

fear began to tell them he had no Mo-
 neys, and many such excuses, which
 was no answer to them, but they pur-
 suing their work, got him down, and
 Rob'd him of near 150 Guinies, and
 stript off all his upper Garments, bind-
 ing him with his hands behind him,
 and in this miserable condition expo-
 sed to the Season, did they unrelen-
 tingly leave him, telling him, if he
 made the least noise, they would cer-
 tainly return and cut his Throat; not
 knowing in this extremity what to
 do, fearing their threats on the one
 hand, and on the other, that he must
 Perish with cold if not quickly relie-
 ved, he saw them make away with
 all the hast they could towards the
 Booth wherein as it happened, his
 Friend was left in his Drunken Sleep,
 as aforesaid, after which, he believing
 them to be out of hearing, he cryed
 out for help, and the Shore not being
 far off, was heard by a Person that
 kept a Publick House, at some
 distance

distance thence, who guided by his cry, came and unbound him at such time as he was ready to be Starved with cold, and thorow wet with the Snow which his warmth had melted under him, in this case the good Man conveyed him to his House, and by a good Fire brought him to himself, where he Related the whole circumstance of the Robbery aforesaid, and how far he had observed the Rogues to go from him, naming the Booth before Spoken of, which happened to belong to the same Man that had done him this charitable office; after which, and other Discourses to the same purpose, the Host desired him to go to Bed, and told him, he would make a dilligent Inquiry about the same the next Morning early, it being in vain at present to search further thereinto, the Squire accepted the Proposal, where he very unquietly slept the ensuing part of the Night, considering with himself that he

he should be hereby made the Ridicule
 of his Friend, and the Story might
 get amongst his acquaintance in the
 Country, who would sufficiently Laugh
 at, instead of pitying his misfortunes,
 till the Morning came, and his more
 joyful Landlord to his Bed-side,
 who bid him be of good cheer, for that
 he had taken a Rogue whom he be-
 lieved was one of them that had
 Rob'd him, the Squire was glad
 at the news, and enquired into the
 particulars, Sir, says he, *This Morn-*
ing about Six I got up, and went by the
Light of the Moon to my Booth, whether
you saw the two Robbers make, and where
in the Straw I found one of them so ha-
bited as you described a Sleep, where
after I had waked him, he called for
his Wife and Companions, which was all
I could get of him for a great while,
till looking about him, after some time
he began with fear (I suppose being
sensible of his Guilt) to pretend himself
Trappan'd and Cheated, and at other
 times

times, Madman like, to cry out of his mis-
fortunes, and a Thousand Extrava-
gant Discourses, which we can make
nothing of, so that I have brought
him hither, where he is below in the
hands of an Officer, to see if you
know him. This must be one of
them (says the Squire) be sure you
let him not escape, and I'll be with
you presently, and make an Example
of the Rogue, in the mean while, as
the Squire was getting up, the Land-
lord went to his Prisoner, who ex-
treemly ashamed of his condition, and
sensible of the danger he was in, up-
on the Accusation he lay under, began
to consider of his circumstances, and
the Cheat had been put upon him,
so that whatever Questions he was
asked, he silently disregarded the same,
his thoughts being otherwise Employ-
ed, which they took for Guilt, and
upbraided him with the Name of
Rogue and Rascal, so to misuse a
Gentleman, and leave him bound to

C
the

the Mercy of the Weather, which might have given him his Death; and nothing less then Hanging as an end too good for such a Villain, was he threatned with. *Very fine, Faith,* (says the Disconsolate Squire to himself) *what the Devil do I Dream,* or where am I, pray Gentlemen be so kind, says he, to those about him, *Am I awake, or is this all Delusion!* Delusion, cries the Landlord, yes, Mr. Rascal, it is Delusion indeed, to Rob a Man, and leave him for Dead; 'tis such a Delusion as shall Delude you with a Halter. By all these good Gentlemen, replies the Squire, you charge me with a Crime that I am as Innocent of, and understand no more then the Child unborn, and how I came where you found me, can give no other account of, then that I was found there. A pretty excuse indeed says Mr. Constable, Robb Men of their Moneys, *Sirrah!* get Drunk and Ramble, and when

when you fall a Sleep you know not how you came thither, see whether this answer will serve the Justice, and be enough at the Assizes, to save your Cragg. *No Rogue !* here's a Gentleman cries the Landlord, the Honest Gentleman that will find you out, answer him ; (at which time the other Squire was got up and coming down) but no sooner had he seen the wofull Metamorphosis of his Friend, whom he knew at a distance, but he stood amazed at the same, and for some time between shame and surprize could not utter himself ; nor was our Red-coat less concerned, each ruminating that the other had laid the designs wherein either of them was caught, but judgment that impossible ; they came to a Second thought, that each of them should so Fortunately meet in their misfortunes that neither could Laugh at the other ; with which somewhat encouraged, says the first, and is it you my Friend, that I am accused to have Rob'd.

Yes, with a Pox to you, cries the Landlord, and dare you be so impudently bold, *you Rogue*, with a Person of Quality whom you have so abused, and thereupon gives him a good hunch, Hold says our other Squire, perhaps you may be under a mistake Landlord, I know this Gentleman, however he comes thus disguised, and will answer for him, that he is not the Person you take him for, and with that Embraced him, discharging the Constable and his Officers, to the great joy of our accused Squire, who longed to get in private and discourse his Friend touching the circumstances they were both under, which they soon did, and telling each other the Stories of their misfortunes, agreed in conclusion, to be Silent as to the particulars, and to send for Habits, and a Supply, whereby they might take leave of their Friends, and repair into the Country, tho with a heavy Heart, for their misadventures in *Frost-Fair*.

Not

Nor was our Amorous Squire more concerned for the loss of his Moneys, then that of his Mistress, whom he had so much Charity for, that he believed the poor guiltless creature in as bad a Plight as himself: wishing he could find out the House, which he thought almost impossible, for that he was hurried thither in a Coach, at such a time as the Evening was quite Dark; nor could he imagine how or when he got thence, as aforesaid.

In short, they were supplied with Moneys, by their Notes in Town, and soon took Horse for their own Homes, where they gave as particular an account of the Frost, as any other couple that had come so far to see it.

I Now proceed to a Second Adventure, which as it happened about the same time, is not less worthy of Notice, tho herein no further misad-

venture happened to any of the Parties who are the intended Subject of this Relation, then the loss of a brace of those two useless unknown Toys, fondly Stiled *Maiden-heads* ; Nor will I vouch that neither, for Ladies near Twenty, as these were, of whom I am now to Treat, who were by Birth Kinswomen, and Lived with an Uncle of theirs, within a Mile of a *Chelsey-Oak*, in good Reputation and Quality, which said Ladies having been used to Slide on a Private Pond belonging to their Uncles Ground, where no body saw them, began to be fowell Learned therein, that they doubted not but they had fully attained the said Art, and could not be out-done by the other Sex, were their Habiliments a like : with this opinion one Evening as they were walking on the *Thames* near *Chelsey* aforesaid, not perceiving as they thought any Person near them, or as they thought within hearing ; they resolved the next day to get each
of

of them a Suit of Mans Apparell, and walk out amongst the Gentlemen to Practise their new gained Art, which a Person of worth over-hearing, and having some little knowledge of the Ladies, being their Neighbour, took notice of, and was resolved to watch their walks, and improve this Intreague to the advantage of at least a Mettry-meeting. To which end communicating the same to a Friend of his, they resolved next day by Spies to way-lay them, and in case they held the asor said Resolution, that these would do the same, and put on Womens-cloaths, and so disguised, watch an opportunity to Pick, or be Picked up by them, which they doubted not might be accomplished, they being both Young, and nothing on their Faces to that height as was possible to discover the Deceit. In short, the Night past, and the next day about three, their Spies brought word that their Ladies were gone forth Apparell-

led as expected; hereupon as agreed
 they followed, and having soon got
 sight of them, softly pursued their
 walk, till they beheld them very briskly
 Sliding amongst a parcel of Youth,
 and very fairly give and take as many
 Falls as any Youngster there. Much
 pleased were our two Gentlemen at
 the Gayety of their Humour, and the
 Masculine carriage they so well coun-
 terfeited, which resolving to improve,
 standing by them, says one to the o-
 ther, were I Madam to bestow a prize
 on the Victor at these Exercises, I
 should be much at a Pose, to which
 of these two Gentlemen (pointing to
 the Ladies) I should Dedicate the
 same, were it devideable, certainly
 it must be between them, replys the
 other, this being said, with design
 to be over-heard, was taken notice of
 by them, and though at first put to
 the Blush, and a little Irresolute, yet
 could they not but regard the same,
 so that coming up to the supposed Fe-
 males,

males, they thanked them for the Honour of their Approbation, excusing themselves as Novices at the Sport, telling them, they doubted not if they might have the happiness of their Ladyships good Company, they would evidence themselves by other tokens Meritorious of their better Esteem: we need no other then what we have seen, says one of the disguised Gentlemen, yet would it be very difficult to deny you our Company, for whom already we have a more then ordinary good opinion; (Impudent Strumpet, says one of the Ladies to her self, is it possible there should be such creatures amongst our Sex, but of these I'll make an Example) whilst the other entertained them with her desire, that they would accept of their Hands, and withdraw to some place, where they might have the benefit of a Fire, and a Glass of Wine. In fine, with few words our couples were agreed, though with

more different intentions probably, then any four upon the whole River besides : The Gentlemen intended Mirth with them as Ladies, the Ladies with them as Jilts of their Sex, to Pledge, or leave them for a Reckoning, when they had tryed how far their Impudence would extend. To which end let me call our Ladies Gentlemen, and Gentlemen Ladies, for so they were at least in the opinion of our Heroines, and were by them accordingly Courted, and all of them as Amorous and Complaisant as the most agreed ; where having for some time walked, they saw a place of Entertainment, into which our Gentlemen would force their Ladies, telling them upon their Honour they would not offer the least rudeness to them : well Gentlemen says our Ladies you have us at your Mercy, use us as you think fit, and be sure you put us not to the Blush or Shriek, for I'll assure you we are very Young
and .

and Tender and must be handled accordingly. My pretty Fair ones, no harm I warrant you, says one, a merry Story, and a Kiss will scarce Fright you: whilst you use your Lips only: we will forgive the Trespass, says the Ladies, and thus being come into the Booth, the Host conveyed them into as retired a Room as the same would afford, and our Gallants called in for their Bottles, and very Amorously Saluted the Ladies, who nothing shy of the Favours did as kindly return the same, pleasant was the Discourse between them, either of them having chose his Mistress, whose Health they Drank, and to whom they particularly did Address their intended Gallantry, till growing more Familiar amongst themselves, they fatned their Discourse, and began to Drink such usual Healths as are the Prologue of Enjoyment: as the best in *Cristendom*, the *Worlds Wonder*, the *Mont*

of March, the Wonderful Pitcher, Natures Tinder-Box, and Womans Play-fellow, with many others, (tho the disguised Ladies little thought there were any of the last of them, so near them) *Faith Madam* ! says one of our Gallants to his Mistress, unless you prove as kind as you are Lovely, you have raised a Distemper that increases so fast upon your Servant, that I fear it may have an unhappy Influence upon his Modesty, and may force him to a breach of promise. You are pleased to divert your self with me, says the supposed Lady, to try what mould our Sex is made of, whether as arrant Flesh and Blood as yours; but I hope you intend it no further. In good truth *Madam*, says he, it is hard to dissemble, nor am I much used to it, with Persons of your worth; I would you would entertain the same thoughts with me, and give me Incouragement that my Addresses may not be in vain,

upon

upon you? Not too Hastily, good Sir, says his Mistress, 'tis to be considered more then once, how we part with that which once lost is never to be regained, our Honour and Reputation; 'tis this Sir makes me careful to withstand, what otherwise my own wishes might be the best advocate for, in your behalf: *Honour!* replies our Counterfeit Gentleman, poor empty Bauble, to stand between us, and our desires, to defeat us with an imaginary promise, instead of real Enjoyments; a thing never heard of in that Golden Age, when Love and Happiness was the Essence of Humanity, till Foolishly traduced into the World by the Old, the Grave, and the Dull, who knew not to improve their felicity to such heights as we miss of when we Entertain Disputes, about the same, debaring us of what Age or Distemper hath incapacitated them to take the Fruit of. *No Madam!* let that Idol be thrown down in Loves Temple, whilst

whilst in its stead we consecrate the spoils in our Amorous Triumphs, to him whose kinder Allowances hath forbid such precise Worship, and enjoyns us nothing but the dictates of Love and Pleasure. Very well, says our Lady, but you Youth I fear, brag as much in the spoyl, as you desire the Victory in Loves War, so that having our Reputation in your hands, you Trumpet the same about at your pleasure, regardless of our Resentments, which can extend no further then an unpowerful Regret, that we cannot Return the Injury without a greater to our selves. *To Kiss and tell, Fie Madam!* replies the Gallant, that's so much beneath a Gentleman that rather then I would have the Guilt of such a Crime upon me, I would loose whatever I esteemed dearest, nor shall the Wind it self be ever Privy to the least Whisper of it. The Promise (says she) is as easie, as the Performance is difficult, and should I

put

put it to Tryal, I much doubt your observance : but for once with a Sigh. Tell me Sir, can you be true to one that Loves you ? May your Staggering Faith be in this trusted ? If you think it may not, rather then deceive, you'l extreamly oblige me, to confess your weakness, and own it impossible. Rather my most endeared Charmer, cries our Gentleman, as if he seemed heated with hope, then to think me capable of such Perjury, finish such an intire Conquest o're my Heart, which your Eyes have too far advanced already. You are believed, says she, and make use of my easiness, to your own advantage, the Grant was Sealed at our Lovers Lips, and the Familiarity decreed between them. Nor was our other Gallant less successful with his supposed Mistress, who had all this time been discoursing on the same Theme : tho other Arguments were by them made use of, to prove the Lawfulness of his Desires, such

such as those that are drawn from the Instigation of Nature, which so powerfully prompted such wishes, which were not in vain created, but with design to be improved, to the increase of that Felicity that was thereby intended us, as also the Venialness of the thing in it self, drawn from the Examples of our Fore-Fathers, whose Eyes were the only fore-runners of their Enjoyments, with many such to the like Purport, so that either of them had got their supposed Ladies consent at the same time, and began to consider they wanted only Tools to finish the work, which it was not long but they found out, for intending to carry the same as far as it would bear, they gave Liberty to their hands to wander under their Ladies Petticoats, thinking to seize on the Naked Altar of Love, when alas, instead thereof, they met the Sacrifice prepared thereon, ready to offer to the said Deity, in its full Glories: never was Thunder-stroak

Swain

Swain half so astonish'd as the two Ladies were at this experience, nor could either of them Recollect their countenance or thoughts, at so unlooked for a surprize ; the condemning Blush blamed their too inquisitive Frolick, Shame, Anger, and Despair, nor was desire absolutely a Stranger to their Breast, which they could not dissemble, nor could they tell which first should shew it self in this dilemma, each of the said passions striving to be foremost, hindred the other from discovering it self, whilst in the mean while our now no longer Ladies began to beg their Pardon for the Cheat they had designed too much to their advantage ; telling them, they had gone too far now to retreat on this occasion, for that as they had found what they least expected, so had they not been Ignorant of their disguise, which had given them the opportunity of knowing their nearer Inclinations, hoping the Arguments they had made use of

them.

themselves, Inverted against them, might have the same prevalency upon their Honour and Reputation, (that poor empty Bauble) as it had on them, who could not by any Rhetorick evade the same.

Since 'tis so Gentlemen, says one of the Ladies, half recovered from her Surprise, I suppose my Kinswoman will agree with me that neither of us Drown, Stab, or make away with our selves, as others more precise might think on this occasion, but freely will we throw our selves and Reputations into your hands, and as you declare your selves Men of Honour, expect the Issue of this misadventure. *Good Madam!* (says one of our now again Gentlemen) let it not be so called, for I doubt not when you better know us, but you'l Recant the Title, and as to us it hath proved the happiest that we ever met with, so may it not be otherwise to your selves, whose Persons we have
always

hem, always admired, and whose per-
 upon fections have ever been our Regard.
 that 'Tis in vain my dear *Aurelia*, says the
 hem, Second Lady to her Companion, in
 vade vain to disguise my thoughts after
 those declarations that have already
 one Sallyed from my Breast: 'Tis here I
 rom Love taking one of the Gentlemen
 wo- by the hand, and here for ever do I
 her vow an Inviolable Friendship. Nor
 way dearest *Sylvia*, says *Aurelia*, using
 re- the same Complement to the other
 out Gentleman, must I ever offer up my
 nd Heart, but at this Shrine, the Gen-
 as tlemen Kissing their hands, and re-
 o- turning their Civilities in the kindest
 d- expressions Love it self could Indite,
 ne removed to a more convenient Scene,
 it to renew their Vows, where I will
 en not precisely Swear the said Ladies
 e- lost their Virginities, but leave the
 h Readers imagination to supply what
 et my Pen must be Silent in.
 o
 e
 s

J Now return to *Frost Fair*, which yet continued to the admiration of all People, every day strengthening more then other ; And therein Discourse of a Third Intreague, which happened on a Country-Gentleman who with his Friend was Drinking at a Tavern, there News was brought in of a Gentlemans Pocket that had been newly Pick'd, which put them into Discourse of the said Art ; and one of them told a Story of a Good-Woman, who to secure her Money from such sort of Knaves, (of which there were but too many plying about the said place) she put the same into a Purse, and hung it just before that part of the Garment which the Females Stile a Placket, and being in a Booth in the *Fair*, she told her Husband thereof, as a piece of necessary care to preserve the same, which as they were Drinking was over-heard by

y one of the Trade, thorow the
 plank Partition, which the Fellow
 turning a little a side, took view of
 the Woman, and assured himself of
 the Booty, which he soon had got,
 following the Woman out) with-
 out her knowledge; the Woman went
 off the *Thames* before she missed the
 same, but her Husband having bought
 some small Trifle, bid her pay for the
 same, which she going about, and
 feeling for her Purse, found it gone,
 Lord Man, (says she) *I have lost my*
Money, how you Fool could you not
 look better after it, says he, I thought
 a good truth, the same had been there,
 you *Wot well* where I put it, why
 could you not feel, says he, yes Hus-
 and I did feel a Fellow groping
 hereabouts, but little thought he in-
 tended my Purse in that place; this
 was only Subject to their Laughter.
 but the Country Gentleman being
 more serious, began to Examine how
 were possible that such Cheats should
 be

be practised were People any thing
 careful, the Gentleman told him they
 did it very easily and undiscernedly.
Ads Dud says the Country-Man,
 were I to Live a hundred year in *Lon-*
don, I am very certain nothing of
 that Nature could be put upon me.
How! says another Gentleman, I dare
 wager you a Treat of 10 Guinies,
 to be spent to Morrow Night at Sup-
 per at *Mat Fowlers* in *Cheapside*, if
 you will only go to the *Bull-Baiting*
 to Morrow upon the *Thames*, intend-
 ed against *Whitehall*, if you carry one
 particular piece, hide it where you
 will, so it be about you, the same shall
 be taken from you by one or other of
 this Craft. *I'd Wager my Life to a*
Groat of that, says the Country-Man.
 That's too much odds replies his Com-
 panion, but if you'll take me up in
 what I have proposed, I'll Stake a
 Guiny in this Gentlemans hands, and
 meet to Morrow at Two, at the *Half-*
Moon, and make the same Ten pound

to be spent on an Entertainment as
 abovesaid, that the same is effected as
 I Premised: *Say you so*, replies the
Country-Man, 'tis done? you Gen-
 tlemen are witness to the wager, and
 there I bind it with that Guiny, and
 will make it Ten pound to Morrow
 at Two, at the appointed place; and
 to satisfie you now, says the Country-
 Gentleman, that your wager is cer-
 tainly lost, here is a piece of Broad
 Gold which was the Gift of a Friend,
 I have some time preserved; It is as you
 may see Marked with the Letter [B]
 which I had Ingraved thereon, as the
 first Letter of my Friends Name that
 left it me, (which the Company took
 notice of) now pursues he, this In-
 dividual piece I'll carry with me, and
 to shew you I'll preserve the same,
 I'll keep it all the while in my Mouth,
 and the Devil is in it if any Pick-
 Pocket in Town take it thence. *Nay*
Sir? replies the Gentleman that had
 laid with him, *That's not fair, for*

*'twas not my Wager it should be taken
 from your Mouth, but your Pocket?* nay,
 says the Country-Man, I had the Li-
 berty (these Gentlemen know it) to
 hide it where I pleased about me;
 Sir, replys the other, if you put me to
 such terms, I can't help it, but how-
 ever I'll try for it, and look to your
 self: You may spare that advise, says
 the Country-Man, and be sure you
 Meet, to make good the Remainder
 of your wager, as appointed, and
 whoever of us is not there, shall loose
 the same; *Agreed* says the Gentle-
 man, and thereupon took his leave
 of them, intending forthwith to *New-
 gate*, in search for a *Crafts-Master* to
 make good his wager, leaving his
 Companions Laughing at the im-
 possibility of the undertaking,
 where the very Fancy was so improv-
 ed, that they got Drunk in the En-
 tertainment thereof. But he being
 got to *Newgate*, inquired of one of the
 Officers whether that Colledge could
 furnish

furnish him with any one who Com-
menced Master of Arts in that Professi-
on, to which he was answered in the
affirmative, and that if he pleased to
walk into the Cellar, he might with-
out doubt be supplied at the expence
of a dozen of Drink, and being thi-
ther directed to one amongst the rest,
he sent for him, and Treated him,
where after some Dialogue to the pur-
pose he came about, was by him sent
to one of his Brothers at large, as a
Person most fit for his purpose, to con-
sult with in the Emergency he was in;
to whom (according to his received di-
rections) he forthwith repaired, and
finding him at home, broke the mat-
ter to him, telling him, it was not so
much the loss of his Wager he look-
ed at, as being bubbled by a Country
Squire, which he could by no means
admit: the Cheat told the Gentle-
man the thing would prove very diffi-
cult, nor could he effect the same
without some hazzard and expence:

D

as

as to the first says the Gentleman, I'll see you Indemnified, and as to the latter, nothing shall be wanting which is necessary therein, provided you be but Trusty and Careful, nor shall you miss a good Reward, of which here is Fifty Shillings in hand, (giving him the same.) Sir, says the Cheat, you must show me the Party, and doubt not but the thing is done, which you may assure your self of, I'll be Just and Trusty in it, my better Fortunes lying in your hands: whereupon the Gentleman appointed him to come at Two the next day, to *Mats* and send up for him, where he should have the opportunity of seeing his Country-Man, as he desired; and thus the Gentleman and Cheat parted, the one to his Lodging, the other to prepare his design. And at Two the next day, the Gentleman met the Country-man, and made good the Residue of his Stake, bespeaking a Supper as aforesaid. Where after
many

many Taunts, and much Laughter, which the Country-man had put on him. As he was Discoursing, the Drawer told him two Persons were below and would desire one word, to whom when he came, he saw the Hired Cheat with a Friend of his, whereupon he calls for a Room about the Stairs-foot, and described his Country-man, whom he told them was in such a Garb, and that he himself would come a Breast down with him; and whom they being prepared for, they took sufficient notice of, he coming not long after down, to go to the place aforesaid, and they dogging him; he had stayed at the sport about half an hour or more, and it being near over, was rejoycing in hopes of the security of his Wager, when the Cheat came up to him; and at the same time two Fellows were Quarrelling about the goodness of their Dogs, fell to Boxing, which the Country-man crowding amongst the rest to see,

the Cheat took his opportunity, and pulling his Handkerchief from his Pocket, had several pieces of loose Money that fell as by chance upon the Ice, upon which his Comrades making way, began to help gather it up, and give it to him, and amongst the rest the Country-man seeing a piece at his Foot, stoop'd to take it up, and put it into his Hand, but still looking, a Person asking him whether he had found all the pieces he had dropt, No says the Cheat, I want a piece of Broad Gold which I much Prize; says one of his Fellows, *Did not that Gentleman* (pointing to the Country-man) *give you the same?* No Sir! says the Cheat, *I received no such piece as yet;* I am sure, says another, *I saw him take it up;* At which the Cheat goes to the Country-man, *Pray Sir,* says he, *be so kind to restore it, you look like a Person of Worth, and should Scorn to keep it, as I should be to ask it, were it not a piece I valued up-*

on several accounts; Indeed, says the Country-man, I saw it not; I wonder, replies a third, you should deny it so, for I am certain you put something yellowish into your Mouth, where I believe you hold it still, by your Speech; Say you so, says the Cheat, by Heavens I'll not loose it then; And thereupon Seizes our Country-man by the Jaws, till he forced him to drop it thence. Look you, says the Gentleman, here it is, at which the Mobile cryed out *A Cheat! A Cheat!* and began to threaten they would Duck him. Nay Friends, says the Country-man, you are mistaken, for that piece is my own, and I brought it hither with me; If so, says the Cheat, God forbid I should Claim it; Nor will I Sir, if it be not mine; Nor is it so, I declare to all this Company, unless on the Face side there be Engraved the Letter [B.] therefore pray, says he to one of his Accomplices, look on that piece and see whether it be so or not, and accordingly let that

decide the Question : Before Gad the same, cries the Associate, let any other here see it, and judge if this be not a great Rogue : A great Rogue, Ecchoed through the Crowd, nor could the Country-man be heard to defend himself, but many a thump he had, and was glad at last to escape away unseen, which he could scarce have done, had not the Water just then broke over the Ice, and each Man eager to save himself, left him with a heavy Heart for the loss of his Wager, and convinced of his Fool-hardiness, that induced him to believe no such Craft was practiced, which he now experimentally found out, was but too true. Thus served, he met his Friends, and thinking they knew nothing of the same, dissembled his concern, telling the Gentleman that he had laid with, that tho he had got the advantage of him, yet would he not Insist, but part Stakes with him, and Club for the Entertainment.

I think Sir, says the Gentleman the advantage is mine, for I have not seen you since I parted hence, and look you Gentlemen (to the rest met) here is his Gold brought me by a Pick-Pocket, who got the same from him: at which they all wondred, but the Gentleman soon unriddled the Jest, giving his Country Friend his Gold again, tho he lost his wager, where we leave them all (except the Loofer) full of Mirth and Jollity, passing the hours in Entertainments Suitable thereunto.

A Nd now to proceed to a Fourth Relation that soon after happened, at such time as the *Bull* before Spoken of to be Baited, was Roasted upon the same River. A Sight so unusual was a general Invitation to all Persons that admired any thing Novel. Nor indeed was there many who did.

not repair to see the same: Some wondring how it should be done, others, that if so, they could Roast it whole, yet were they apprehensive that the Fire that would be Requisite to do it, must necessarily melt the Ice, and the same Fate might attend the *Bull*, as earlier in the said Fair, it happened with the *Old Womans Dumplings*, who keeping a constant Fire for the management of that sort of Trade, and one day as she was called aside about some other business, left the same burning, and before her return, the *Dumplings* and Fire both was sunk, which she searching after, suspecting only some unlucky Neighbour had removed the same, to put her on the hunt, not regarding the hole, fairly dropt in, and had like to have been Drowned: But otherwise did it fare at this great piece of Cookery, no such danger was in the least threatned, but the work was accomplished with as much security as if the
same

same had been upon any other place
 on dry Land. Amongst many others
 that resorted to this Sight, the Wife
 of a Citizen of reasonable Reputation,
 by Trade a Scrivener, being a Wo-
 man of an ungovernable temper, not
 so Old as Proud, nor Proud as Passio-
 nate, had been often inducing her said
 Husband to go with her (as most of
 their Neighbours had done) to *Frost
 Fair*, saying, *That her Fortunes (she
 was well assured) was as great as the most
 of theirs, though her Treatment was much
 worse, the more Rogue he; and they could
 in their Hollyday Garbs be seen abroad e-
 very day, whilst she was forced to keep at
 home, brooding over a stinking Sea-Coal
 Fire, which in time would break her
 Heart; but that (she said) she believed
 was all one to him; and then half cry-
 ing, and half Railing, would she swear
 she could not endure it longer: this be-
 ing the poor Mans daily Plague, he
 was resolved at length to think of some
 Stratagem, how at once to fatisfie,*

and cure her of this Distemper, and to that end having complained thereof to one of his Intimates, resolved the next day (which happened to be the same abovementioned) to go with her to see the *Bull-Roasted*, (the so much expected Entertainment) having over-right at a Booth not far distant, laid the Scene of his further design; which none were privy to, but he and his Friend, who had very little kindness for her: the day came, the Parties met, and at *Black-Fryers-stairs* Landed upon the *Thames*, where having at first viewed the general Resort of People, therein amongst others, our Scriveners Wife, happened to see at a distance a Kinswoman of hers, (who was Married to a Pewterer) in a much finer Garb then she had on, at which inwardly offended, look says she to her Husband, are you not ashamed to let me go so like a Trull, while she that is much my Inferiour, is in her Gold and Silver; but so it must

must be, and I forsooth must endure it, and submit to your sneaking humours? Well, I was not Born to it, pursues she, that I'me sure, tho my cursed destiny brought me to be your Wife, who vallues not his Honour, nor my Reputation: Prithee, says the Husband, let us my Dear be quiet abroad, whatever we are at home. Prithee me no Prithees, nor call me Dear who never proved to you so yet; when you change your humour I'll change mine, but before that, never think that I can be contented with Rags and scraps, whilst never a Housewife in the Parish but Laughs at me, through your means, and all my Relief is to vent my mind, and this displeases you I warrant. The good Man promised, but nothing would quiet her, nor could she be prevailed upon to hold her Tongue by all endeavours whatsoever, tho to satisfie her, they had taken the pleasure of the whole Fair, and had taken

Coach

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Coach

Coach too and from *Westminster*, and all round about the whole Scene, till at last seeing nothing would do, he was resolved to put his last project in Execution; to which end whispering his Friend, to see that all things were in readiness, whilst he delayed, in the mean while, on pretence of buying some Trinkets in *Temple-street*, and soon after walked towards the said Booth, asking his Wife if she would Eat a *Neats-Tongue* and Drink a Bottle on the *Thames*: 'Twas well you offered it at last, says she, I am almost Starved to Death already, whereupon they mended their pace, just as he see his Friend coming onward, who nipt the wink or Sign of preparation on him, so that they three went in together; and being Seated, and the Wine come in, yet could not the woman forbear Railing, and the more he strove to please her, the faster she opened, nor would his Anger work any other effect, tho he threatned she should

should repent it. Yes Rogue, says
 she, as you have before now designed,
 you had best beat me: no, says the
 Husband, but I'll use you as those of
 your Function better deserve; I'll
 Duck you, and with that gave the
 token to one he had placed by her, for
 that purpose, who quickly drew aside
 a Board that supported her Chair,
 under which there was a hole broke in
 the Ice, which had been before so
 covered with Straw, that the same
 could not be perceived, into which
 Chair and Wife both Sunk to her
 Arm-pits: Now says her Husband,
 (seeing her in) as you like this conti-
 nue, you *Billingsgate*! I hope I shall
 cool your courage: Yes Rascal, Mur-
 ther me, Drown me, do, you had best,
 (says she) I thought I Read Hanging
 long ago in your Face, and you take
 the course for it; but for all her Strug-
 gling she could not get out, nor would
 he be prevailed upon to release her,
 till after she had been several times
 dipt

dipt up to the very Chin, she promised Reformation, tho a great while it was before she would condescend thereunto; so that at last, helping her up himself, he carried her to a House just at the Shore, where he had ordered a Fire, and a warm Bed to put her immediately in, with shift of Raiment necessary on such an occasion, where he left her to the care of her Hostess, and repaired back to his Friend, whom he had left pleased with the Frolick. But no sonner was our Wife come to her self, but with harsh complaints against her Husbands unkindness, she consulted with her Hostess on a Revenge suitable thereunto, which she was resolved by one or other means to accomplish. The good Woman began to pitty her, and urge the Humour, which she Swore were it a Husband of hers, she would never be quiet till she had effected, tho little need there was to blow the Fire of a Revenge, which in its self was but too far kindled.

led in our Females Breast. All that lay before her being only the Scandal that this Story might fix upon her, did it come to be talked of amongst her Neighbours, which she believed her Husband would disperse as a new experiment to Tame a shrew, so that unless she did something as remarkable against him, she should be Subject to all Peoples Ridicule, and her Name Recorded in the History of *Frost-Fair*: when she her self was bent therefore on this Resolution, she Summoned all the Intreagues to her Fancy, that Womans wit and Malice could Invent, which seldom fails in purposes of ill to bring about their ends; and after she had laid several designs, at last she fixt upon one that she thought most practicable. To which purpose late in the Evening she returned home, where she found her Husband in pleasant Humour, taking no notice of what had past, and strove all she could to dissemble hers to the same temper,

cover-

covering that Rage and Mallice which burnt inward, so that he doubted not of her Cure, and applauded his own Judgment in the choice of those means that had produced the same, little thinking what was designed against him, which in few days took effect: she carrying her self all the while more submissive then she was wont, tho sometimes she could not hide so much of the Woman in her, as not to take notice of the affront, and reproach him with his baseness therein, which he in good words soothed, mentioning the great provocations that had induced him to the same, with which she seemed to be Stilled; but the Fire lay all the while beneath the Embers, and opportunity did not yet present it self ripe, to put the same into its Flame again, which she at last met with; her husband being one afternoon gone forth with his Friend, she sent an Emissary of hers to Dogg them, who soon brought word they were gone to walk
on

on the *Thames*, hereupon in haſt ſhe Diſguiſes her Apparrel, and taking with her a Mask, ſtrait follows them, where ſhe had not long walked about viewing the ſeveral Sports and Devices that People entertained themſelves with, when at laſt ſtanding by the Flying-Chair which was made with the Flag upon it, to Whirl round in a Circle, ſhe ſaw her Husband mounted in the ſame, and take his turn therein; glad ſhe was to have ſo luckily met him, and as ſoon as he was out thence, (tho contrary to cuſtom for Women ſo to do) ſhe would needs get thereinto, and being in good habit People wondred to ſee a Woman of Faſhion undertake the ſaid Sport, (the Chair Flying round in an Incredible ſwiftneſs, there being a Poſt placed in the middle, and upon that a Rope tyed, which holds the ſaid Seat, and which is turn'd round in as little a ſpace as a Man gets round the ſaid Poſt, though the compaſs be very large

large it Rings it self in) yet was she not known, keeping on her Mask all the while, and never discovering her Face, tho most supposed her a Lady of Pleasure, and amongst that number her Husband, who stayed to see her perform the same, wherein after she had taken many rounds, she dismounts, and walks off, keeping her Eye upon her Husband and his Friend, who seemed to dog her towards *Westminster*, which she observing, makes a kind of a stop, as if she meant to see some People who were Sliding with *Scates*, after the *Dutch* Fashion, against the *Savoy*, or thereabouts, till she gave them opportunity of coming up to her, where looking kindly upon her; the Husband asked her to Drink a Glass of Wine: It is not my Custom Sir, says she, to Drink with Strangers, yet I'll for once accept the offer, provided your Friend be with you, to keep you honest, and we have the advantage of a good Fire, which

which this place will scarce afford us, for I am more a Cold then a Dry : *Agreed*, says the Husband, we'l go to some house on the Shore, where our designed Mirth may be less taken notice of, then in this so Publick a place, where the Eyes of all Persons are upon us, I am Gentlemen, says she, at your disposal, if you will not Importune me to discover my Face, which I am under a Sacred Vow not to do to any Person whatsoever; I am Sorry Madam, says his Friend, you'l put in that condition, so much to our disadvantage; It may be not, replies she, for perhaps if you see my Face you may not like it, and if otherwise my Company may be pleasant to you, you have your freedom. With this and other words did they pass off the *Thames*, till they came to a Tavern on the Shore; where after they had been Seated, she began to ask her Husband if he was Married; To which he answered, he was, but to as damn'd

a Shrew (tho I hope says he I may have Tamed her) as any in the world beside : A Shrew says the Disguised, alas, says she, poor Man, is that thy case, a Shrew, I am afraid you have little about you to please a Woman, for 'tis impossible any one should prove so to those that deserve better : be you Madam, says our Husband judge of that ; *Fair and Softly*, replies the Wife, not with other Folks Folks : by your Favour Sir, I am for this Gentleman, he looks as if his Leggs had never got into Matrimonial Stocks, they are plump, and not like such Faggot-sticks, as those that support your Meagre Carkass : No Madam, here's good Flesh, a Batchelors Stock, Meat for Ladies ? And good Food too I suppose Sir, says she : Will you please to taste it Madam ? by and by, answers the Disguised, but in the mean time I am desirous to know whether this Gentleman who pretends himself Linked to such an one as he hath

hath described, has always his Wits about him; and pray Sir (turning to him) have you Lived so long in the World and know not how to Tame a Woman? *Faith Madam!* (as I hinted at first) as to that, I believe I have found out the best Experiment in the whole World; Set up then, says she for a Doctor, and I doubt not but your Practise will Increase upon you, if you are good at such Prescriptions, for I believe there are many such Wives whose Impotent Husbands would be glad at any rate to see them cured; but Pray Sir, may we not know your Methods. My Wife at home would acquaint you herewith, Madam, says he, had you the opportunity of conversing with her. She does not then I suppose, remain Incorrigible, says the Disguised, No Madam, I hope not, since her last Purgation, she has mended. Purgation Sir, how mean you? A certain way Madam, replys he, that I have, which
was

was Anciently called a *Cucking-Stool*, much out of use, (though scarce ever more needed) in our Modern times, till I brought the same into Fashion, tho in a more descent, and less publick way then formerly, and put her therein, which I term her Purgation. A pretty Experiment indeed, says the Wife, and I warrant you poor Woman, she is now Sighing and weeping at home, and scarce dares ask one Question, when you come Drunk in at Night, where or with whom you have been all day: Not for her Ears, says the Husband, if she does, she knows the *Cucking-stool*; But how if when you are abroad, says she, she should get out and Revenge her self some other way? No Madam, says the Husband I have frighted her from that too, and I dare wager my Life, out she stirs not beyond her own Threshold, unless it be to a Meeting-house on a *Sunday*, to here one or other good Man, which I must say for

for her she takes great delight in. A very well managed wife in good truth, says the Disguised, pitty it is she should have such an unhorned Beast to her Husband : You are Satyrical Madam, says our Scrivener, but pray let us leave the thoughts of our Household clogs, and enjoy our selves in Love and Mirth, whilst we are here. I have made my choice already, here I fix, you must scour out in search for some other Damsel, whilst we enjoy our selves, come Sir, turning her self to his Friend, I almost long to Kiss you, but you know my Vow, for once Madam, says the Gentleman let's joyn Hearts without it; with all my Soul, says the Lady. *Faith Tom*, says our Scrivener, *you are Happy*, go on Boy.

*'Tis Wit, Wine, and Beauty
Must Teach us our Duty, &c.*

Faith, my voice is naught, yet here's a health to thee however, to the

the Merry meeting of your two ---
Forgive me, I had almost been Smutty
there & It becomes you Sir, says the
 Lady, I fancy you would make an ex-
 cellent Instrument to hold the door
 whilst we are at our Amours, cry *Hem*,
 Stamp with your Foot, or Cough, when
 any body comes, and if my dear will
 be ruled by me, he shall give you the
 same price for it, as he would to En-
 joy a Commoner, for I ask his Love
 only: he's a bad friend that won't do
 as much (says the Husband) as that
 comes to; however as the Lady says,
 I'll be *Paid Tom*. But it may be you
 Peep, says she? That's into the Bar-
 gain, answers he; then for my share
 says she, (provided you be otherwise
 Trusty) there's a *George* to drink
Pego's Health, and there's another,
 says the friend. Good Earnings
Faith, cries our Cuckold, better than
 staying at home, writing three-penny
 Love-Letters, or Six-penny Bonds.
 I'll avant my little Rogues, and much
 good

good may do you, *To work, to work!*
 In fine, the Gentleman and Wife were
 not long e're they had agreed, and
 took up with such necessary conveni-
 encies the Room would afford, the
 Husband waiting in the mean time at
 the Door, little Jealous of his own
 Fate, was Blessing himself at his
 Friends happiness; and ever and anon
 peeping from behind the Scene, and
 encouraging their Labours, tho he
 was a little down in the Mouth at such
 time as he was called in to Compleat
 the Comedy, upon the sight of a Mole
 which he spied on a part of the Wo-
 mans Thigh, not altogether unlike
 one he was well acquainted with, that
 belonged to another Person; but yet
 he Smothered his suspicion, and came
 in to finish the last Scene, which was
 now almost compleated; for no soon-
 er had he come and was Seated, but
 the Lady unmasked, and shew'd him
 and his Friend his Wives Face, where-
 at they were not a little surprized:

E

Now

Now Mr. *Pimp*, says she, (in a Tone between Jest and Earnest) see the Experiment of your *Cucking-stool*, I thought accounts would one day come to be evened between us! Nay wonder not, (adds she) nor be angry, for I value it not a Rush: *How!* (says the Husband enraged) *Impudent Strumpet*, dare you Triumph in your Villany, was it not enough for you to abuse me, but must I be made the Pander of my own disgrace; an excellent Office, and as good as you deserve, (says she) unless you were otherwise then you are. Very fine indeed, but think you it shall go thus, says the Scrivener, No Madam, I'll cool the heat of your Tail. Cool your own Brains, cries she, you Cuckoldly Fool, and leave my Tail to my own management, you have seen I can Imploy it when I please for my own diversion, and yours too Sirrah, if you stand by and peep; was it not pretty Sport my Dear? A pretty Interlude of Love; I fancy it

as pleasant as the *Cucking-Stool*; what think you of it? Nay, why do you look so unkindly? Prithee be pleasant, and in good humour, here's to thee, and to thy good Wife at home, that dares not for her Ears ask you where or with whom you have been, poor silly Tamed Fool; Is it not so, Mr. *Womans Doctor*? Chear up, *Plague take you for a Whore*, must I endure this, (says he) 'tis e'ne as good as knocking out your Brains (if you have any) or Slipping hence in a String, but 'tis at your Choice, do either, you are at your own disposal, but consider with your self, Murder is a Sin, and tho you dye a Martyr to Love, the Poet will be hard put to it that writes any good of you in your Epitaph, unless it be that you are gone to *Heaven* amongst your Crested Brethren, and that will be more my credit that Survive, then yours that are gone. Thus and to this purpose did our Virago Taunt her poor Cuckold,

till his Patience was quite worn out, insomuch that he could not endure to be longer Jeared, and fell upon her, whilst his Friend strove all he could to Mediate between them, and when together by the Ears, did often part them, tho to the Womans prejudice, who would certainly have had the better of them in the Rage she was in, till the Master of the house came up, and reason stilled them, least the disgrace should further expend it self, which the Cuckold was careful to prevent, and therefore came at last to Terms, that Silence should on both sides be enjoyed, and she conform her self to her Duty, and he to better allowances then formerly he had afforded her, with which intent they repaired home, where I leave them, and go back to our *Fair*.

THis *Fair* being still continued, and every day more resort made thereunto then other, insomuch that
from

from all parts forty Miles adjacent, the Country came in to view the same, and none went home without some Story to tell thereof, or got his and his Mistresses Name Printed thereon, with the Day and Year, or such other Fancies that best pleased them, whilst others got into the Booths of Entertainment, and others were Charriotted and Coach'd about, and nothing was heard but the voice of Joy and rejoycing intermixt with Drums, Trumpets, and other Sounds of Pleasure.

Amongst which Divertisements, some Gentlemen being Merrily set, spyed an Old Country-Fellow (whose Beard had been of Twenty years growth or more) had got very Drunk, and was Reeling about *Temple-street*, in which condition they sent for him into a Booth, and calling a Barber Shaved one side of his Beard close to his Face, leaving the other in its full length: and having so served him,

sent him out amongst the Boys, who made him a whole Regiment about him, every one pulling, tearing, and Laughing at the Old-Fellow, till he was almost wearied to Death, at which time the Gentlemen took further care of him, and it growing Dark, gave him whatever he would Drink, with which the Old-Man was pleased, till at last about 5 or 6 of the Clock, between Sleeping and waking, having provided one of the open Chariots, which used to drive about in the *Fair*, they beset the same with Lamps and Torches, to a great number, and covered over the two Horses that were to draw it with Bear-skins and other frightful Disguises, and set on the foremost thereof an Arch young Rogue whom likewise they had strangely clad, and Instructed with two great Torches on each side of him, in this Chariot thus provided did they place the Old-Man, with a Trident or three Forked Dung-prong in his hand, and

a great *Furr-Cap* on his Head, in which they ordered him to be drove up as high as *Chelsey*, whilst the Gentlemen followed at a distance in Coaches to view the Sport, which was not a little; it being just about such time as People drew off from their Recreations: A sight so unusual and horrid (as the same appeared) that it Frighted every one it met, nor did they Imagine it less then an Aparition of the *Sea-God*, tho it rather seemed he had got into *Pluto's Carr*: The Women Shrieked, and the Men Run, every one to save themselves, whilst their very hast betrayed their steps, one stumbled, t'other fell over this or that Hillock of Ice, nor did others escape the holes by the Shore side, where they were well Scalded, till what with the noise and motion of the Chariot the Fellow began to recover and come to himself, but could not possibly imagine what the Devil had betided him, seeing no way to escape

but through the Flames, till at length he really thought that *Old Nick* had fetcht him away, and that he was on his Road to that place he had so often been frighted with; in which Apprehensions he fell to his Prayers, *Good Devil spare me, Spare me a little longer* (says he) *till I have set my House in order, and made my Will, then use thy Pleasure with me, I will not gain-say it.* No (says the Driver) I have got thee safe in my Clutches, nor will I now part with thee. *Not one Week? Pray Mr. Devil, Sweet Mr. Devil,* (replys the poor Fellow) *one week longer, then Soul and Body is thine, take all, but let me dispose of my Family first, and I'll promise to bring my Wife and Daughter with me, and they are e'ne as fit for thee as my self; the Old Beldam and the young Whore, shall be both thine: Kind Devil spare me.* No words, *Old Fool*, they are mine without thy leave, says the Driver. *Oh! but I'll tell thee*

thee (says the *Old-Man*) of many more; there is one *Frogg* the Solicitor, *Will Tyler* the Baker, and Brother *John* the *Miller* (by Name) besides at least Twenty or Thirty *Quakers*, and as many *Presbyterians*, together with a *Whigg Parson* into the Bargain, that hath made more Cuck-holds in our Town, then there are Honest Men left in the whole Parish, and will you not change a poor *Old-Fellow* for all these: No, these are my Servants already, says the supposed Devil; I thought so, says the *Old-Man*, or I would not have mentioned them to your Worship; but Pray Sir, will you not tell me whether you Drive me? That you shall quickly see, says his Driver; about which time he was got near the place, where he was to Surrender his charge, and where there was attending him three or four fellows, who with Sticks a cross, drest up in like Habbits of Terror, took him out and mounted him

him thereon, and so a Stride, putting out all the Lights, they carried him he knew not whither, till they had placed him in a dark Room, where not the least crevise was open, nor any noise heard, but such as Howls and Shrieks, which on purpose was conveyed to his Ear; in which place he had not been long kept till the Gentlemen came into the same House where he was, and Consulted how they should further dispose of him, which in a little more then an hours time they agreed unto, having put on such Garbs as were for their purpose, and ordered the Hall of the House to be made ready; where in a great Chair Elevated, on the Table a Charcoal Fire in the middle, and a hundred several Lights about the Room, where one of the Gentlemen drest up like a Principal Devil, amongst the rest Seated himself in the Chair aforesaid, with several others as Attendants about him. Thus prepared, they ordered a noise of Drums, Trum-

Trumpets and other Instruments, with the Ratlings of Chains, should on the suddain beat an Immediate Allarum at the Door where the Fellow was, and then start in upon him, Fetter and Array him in a Cows-hide, and in hast bring him away to them, which they performed, and brought the Old Fellow in a strange sort of fright to the said Hall, where he was no sooner entred, but the Principal Devil looking him in the Face, Why all this ado about *Old Tom*, he was mine long ago, Yes, an't please your *Devilship* more cost then Worship, may it please you a Note under your Honours hand, should have done as much at any time, with your poor Servant. Thou hast been a Faithful one, that I confess, replys the Devil, a Letcherous Old Thief; Yes, replys the *Old-Man*, if that will give me any Grace in your Esteem, I have been both Letcherous and a Thief too. Thou dost well to confess, says the Devil,

Devil, pray proceed, and tell us how many Women thou hast laid with upon Earth : If your Worship knows not, I'll assure your Highness I can't count them, but might mention most of the Old Wives in our Town, and some of the Young ones too, till I had a Rival come and Thrust me out, a Preacher Sir, which I mentioned to your Honours Servant as I came hither : Well, as to your Thieving *Tom*, says the supposed *Devil*; Many a little Crime of that Nature, answers *Tom*, but the last Sir I committed was on my Neighbour *Johnson*, whose Calf I Stole, and Buryed its Skin, with which I bore my charges up to *London*, to see *Frost-Fair*, where I met your Worships servants, who conveyed me hither. The worse, the better amongst us *Tom*, (says the supposed Fiend) but go on, thou hast been a Rebel too : Yes, a little *Whiggish* an't please you, says *Tom*, I fought against the *Old King*, and Prayed for this

too:

too: *How Sirrah, Prayed, says the Devil, Yes, an it like your Worship, after our way, at our Meeting-House, that is to say, That God would make him as Glorious as his Father before him, give him the Crown of Martyrdom, and thereby take him to himself, lest he should come to be corrupted by Ill Councillors, turn Papist, and consent to the Cutting of our Throats: besides, Sir, I am a Free-holder, and have a Vote for Parliament-Men, and I was always on the right side, for the Choice of such as would be sure to Padlock our Pockets, take care to Starve him, Rail at his Government, Arraign his Brother, Associate his Enemies, and Unite the Dissenters. Were you not one of the late Plotters too, says the Devil; No indeed Sir, tho not for want of good will, says Tom, but I did not hear of it till it was too late, and then I wept at its Discovery, good days we should have had, if the same had took effect, Fighting, Plandering,*

ing, Confiscating, Revelling, Praying, Preaching, Happy days, but alas 'tis too late now, some are Beheaded, others Hanged, others Run away, and others spared, that were e'ne as bad as the worst of them: say you so (replies he) *bad as the worst*, what your Honour pleases, good as the best, I meant, (cries Tom,) Oh! very well, proceed then, since when, pursues the *Old Man*, I have done all that lyes in my power, to make People believe there was no such thing, and have offered my poor Tallent to Swear (if that would do) there was no such thing, or if there was, 'twas for the Nations good, and to get the Power into our hands: But, says the Devil, what was thy meaning in all this, and what reason had you for the same? None at all Sir, replies Tom, but I see our Party did the same, and I followed their Example, I thought I might get more in troublesome times, then in that

Uni-

Universal Peace we were then under,
 and long'd for a Change: Well what
 other Crimes *Old Tom* hast been Guilty
 of, says the *Devil*? I have Served your
 Worship in as much as lay in my Pow-
 er, in Lying, Swearing, Drinking,
 and many others, too long to trouble
 your Highness with at this time.
 Well pursues the Fiend, have you
 any mind to serve me still, if I Re-
 lease you, and send you Home again;
 Most cordially my good obliging Ma-
 ster, answers *Tom*: well, wilt thou still
 continue a Hypocrite, I'll go every
 day, says *Tom*, to Conventicles. You
 must Learn to Preach; Yes Sir, says
Tom, I will forthwith turn *Quaker*;
 But not forget to Swear: I will ob-
 serve it at every Sentence, continue a
 Rebel Eternally, be Drunk every
 Night, Play the Whoremaster as often
 as I can; But how, pursues the *De-
 vil*, will you ratifie your Vows to
 the observance of these things, *Modo-
 est forma*, says *Tom*, as your Worship
 pleases.

pleases. Then says the Devil to those about him, be sure you pinch him, which they did, and at which he cryed out, well Bleed him too, says his Master, whereupon he was let Blood, let him have a Pen to Subscribe his Name to these Laws, hereupon they brought him a Pen and a Written Scroll, which he Subscribed; Now says the *Devil* thou art free, but first, says he, let him have what our Mansions can afford him, that he may not be afraid when I again send for him, whereupon the *Old Man* returned his Thanks, and was carried into another Room, where others in less Terrible Shapes drest after the manner of Ghosts, very Civilly Treated him, and where he found a Table well spread, and was bid to set down, and soon after the aforesaid Gentlemen having chang'd their Garbs into white Sheets, came into him, and Drank to him, giving him to Eat what he best liked; and after some Dis-

Discourse, told him he was happier then any of them that came to that place before him, for that he had the Liberty of a Return, which they were proscribed from; to which the *Old-Man* answered them, that if that were their Fare in that place, he should not be much concerned whether he ever returned to Earth again. *Oh!* but answers one setting by him, you are happened to come in our year of *Jubilee*, and the like times will not come in the Revolution of a Thousand years, whereas at others we are bound to endless pains and Labours, mentioning to him the Stories of *Tantalus*, *Ixions Wheel*, *Prometheus*, *Typhoeus*, *Sisyphus Stone*, & the *Fatal Seize*, with many other Poetical Romances; besides, says another, we are often tyed to a Rock or Tree, with full grown and Ripened desires in our Breasts, whilst Naked *Nymphs* are set in our view, Beauteous as the day, and kind as Mother Nature, yet they to us, or

we

or we to them, can approach no nearer then with our wishes, and Sighs to bemoan the sad and Intollerable distance. *Faith*, says *Tom*, that is hard usage indeed, Brother Ghost, *It would vex a Dogg to see a Pudding creep*, according to our *English* Proverb, but pray can they talk Bawdy, and are they coming, or I would not care a farthing for the Punishment: *Oh me*, says t'other, the willingest Tits alive, the Smuttiest, Prettiest Rogues, and then they Sing so Incomparably, the Fattest, Merriest Songs as ever gained Reputation in Courts, above that, it would even Ravish you to hear them: In truth my Ancient Bowels e'rne at the very thought, says the *Old Fellow*, begining to be warm with Wine and good Chear, so that you would do me a kindness to change the Discourse, and tell me some News that I might carry to Earth with me, and since you are so free with me, pray can you tell me what's become

become of my brave Master *Cromwel*,
 many a Noble scar has these old Limbs
 had in his Service : As to that Bro-
 ther Ghost I'll tell you, I have been
 here (let me see) about 26 years,
 and soon after I came hither, I could
 hear of nothing else but preparations
 for that great Master of yours, and
 at length mounted on a *Hurricane*, he
 came amongst us, but woe and alas,
 I shall for ever remember that day,
 for so much disturbance did he make
 in our Civil State (for you must know
 all Mortals pass through our Regions
 to the lower Kingdoms of this Empire)
 that he had almost Usurped our Ma-
 sters Throne, till the great *Chan*
 of the *Tartarian* Deeps, fearing his
 Power, which was seconded by so
 many of his Old Souldiers, Captains,
 Committeemen and Sequestrators, sent
 to him an Honourable Embassy, offer-
 ing, if he would be content to repair
 with his Friends to his neither Courts,
 he should be for ever President of his
 Coun-

Council, and take place in his absence as Sole Protector and Governour of his Realms, so that hereby we got rid of him : I'me glad at heart (says the Country-man) at my Generals Preferment; But pray Sir, pursues he, did you ever hear of that good Patriot of his Country, that Bannish'd-Man, the Loyal Lord S---y how is he disposed amongst them, you mean (says the Ghost) he that came from the *Holland Shore*, a little squinting, Rye-looking, Lean Peer; the same (says Tom.) Yes, I saw him (answers t'other) Ride Post for his New Employment, Secretary to the Council before spoken of: Very fit indeed, says Tom, is the said Peer for that Employment, for all the world knew him a Crafty, Cunning Old Blade: But, pursues the Ghost, since you my Friend have had your Questions, pray do me the Favour on your return to Earth, to commend me to my good Friend A---n Smith, he is

a Solicitor in *London*, your Neighbour *Frogg* knows him very well, he may at your Request, do the Message for me, which is only that we want him amongst us, and he would do well to make hast, least the places be all gone at the great Council-Board, for the *Whiggs* come in a pace, and none else are preferred, nor would I be forgotten, (for I was formerly of their Calling, and my Name *P--n*) to our Brothers of the several Inns of Court and *Chancery*, and my Relations in the *Six-Clerks Office*, *Simonds-Inn*, and else-where, they come in but slowly, there is work for them on Earth, and that's the reason, for I heard my Master say a Month past, at the latter end of their last Term, there was 1315 of them Ripe for him, which were all Masters, besides an Innumerable Company of Clerks and under Writers, and be sure *Old Fellow* you remember our Masters Injunctions, I shall Sir, most Faithfully,
 He

I'll assure you, says *Old Tom*, and I doubt not but my Neighbour *Frogg* (as well as myself) will be glad of the Honour of your Service; But pray Sir, pursues *Tom*, how long must I stay upon Earth before my Return, I don't remember that in my Contract, (now says he to himself, if I should bob the Devil, and repent, and get to Heaven) why how long, says the Ghost, no longer then you Serve our Master according to Condition, for if you Speak a good word without an Ill design, or think a good thought, but to compass a bad end, you immediately fall amongst us, that very moment, and will be for ever wrackt on the *Wheel* I told you before of: Say you so, cries *Old Tom*, then I am finely caught, but however here's a fair Title to a Merry brave Life, and Old Soul I'll often Drink thy Health in our World, and prithee let's have our great Masters Health here, but now I think on't, says *Tom*,

Tom, has he ne're a Wife, says the Ghost, no he's wiser then so, we have no Wives amongst us, they are all kept in a place by themselves, from whence if they could once get loose, they would be a worse Torture to us, by their Eternal Clamours, then all our pains besides, we never see any of their kind, only such Fair-ones as I was telling you of, who are all Mistresses of Pleasure: That's as well indeed, says *Tom*, and so let's Drink, with this and the like discourse did *Tom* spend an hour or two, till he got quite Drunk, and then they gave him a Dose of *Opium*, clapt him into a Cart, and sent him to his own home, where by Five of the Clock the next Morning he found himself, and where ever since he hath Faithfully observed the Injunctions a-bovesaid, nor will he be drawn out of the Apprehensions of the same, being very angry with his Neighbour *Frogg* for not performing the Message expressed,

pressed, and therefore desires the same may be thus more publickly delivered.

But thus we leave *Old Tom*, and return to our *Fair* again, where it was a common Cheat made use of upon the said River betimes in the Morning, before People came thereon, to break a hole upon the Ice and cover it with Snow, in the Path way, so that when any Passenger that seemed fit to make a Booty on came by, they let him negligently fall in, which reached no higher then their Middle or thereabouts, and then stand ready to assist him, telling him where he might best be supplied with a Fire, which was a House of some of their own Creatures, where they used to Spunge upon them, win their Money at Play, or set a Whore upon them to Pick their Pockets, or some such Exploit; and amongst other Relations of this nature,

nature, I shall furnish you with one, of a certain *Poetical Vintner*, that lives within a Mile of *Chancery-Lane, London*, who had the Education formerly of one belonging to the Law, (tho with no intention of wronging any of the practisers of the same) and afterwards set up for a Town-Fop, till by his Notorious Extravagance he became advanced to a certain *Colledge* in *Wood-street*, where he stayed almost a Twelve-Month for his Degrees, and having at last attained the same, and wore a Blew-Apron as the *Ensign* thereof, was set at large, and about two years afterwards, having all that time Rambled about Town, he at last fell into the Quarters of a certain Widdow, that kept such a Trade as abovesaid, with whose Stock, having paid his Old Scores, he was resolved to put out the Second Edition of his Gentility, and ungratefully forgetting his then Wife, who had raised him from the Dunghil, used to abuse her,

F

with

with intent perhaps to be as Modish as other Gallants of the time, in this Humour one Morning during the time of the *Frost*, his Wife having given him a curtain Lecture, for being the Night before Drunk, he returned three or four Curses, bid her deliver her Keys, and furnishes his Pockets with 10 or 11 Guinies, tho designed for the Wine Merchant, with these out he goes to walk on the Ice, where having spent an hour or two, being near one of the Traps aforesaid, a certain Female makes up to him, whom he forthwith Accosts, and bestowing two or three of his Flights, upon miscalling her Eyes by the Name of Stars, and her Face a Heaven, he beg'd she would please to Honour him so far as to Drink a Bottle of Wine at his cost which he should take as so Transcending a Glory, that no Felicity he ever Enjoyed in the world, could in the least compare therewith: To which Bumbast the Lady replied, what

what do you take me for you pittiful
 Prigg, do you think that I am Meare
 for a *Taylor*, or *Journey-man Upholsterer*,
 that hath learnt a few Phrases out of the
Academy of Complements, and Blusters
 as if he came from the *Inns of Court*
 or *Whitehall*: I'll assure you Madam,
 says our *Wintner*, you wrong me ex-
 tremely, for I was Born, and have
 been bred a Gentleman, nor was Na-
 ture less Bountiful unto me in those
 inward endowments she hath confer-
 red upon me, for I have been esteemed
 (tho I say it, who should not) an ex-
 cellent Poet, as the world goes: then
 Sir, says the Female, you are scarce
 for my turn neither, for Poets have
 generally but little of what I want
 most; Is it nothing, replies he, Madam,
 to have your Name made Deathless
 in my Immortal Lines, to be called the
 Fair, the Bright, the Lovely Charm-
 ing *Sylvia*, Goddess of my Heart,
 Light of mine Eyes, Day Star of my
 Happiness, Phoenix of your Sex,

Flower of the World, Soul of my
Souls Life. Hold, says the Lady, no
more Pray Sir of these *Poetical Stories*
I see you are enriched with: Thanks
Dearest Lady, says he, 10000 -----
not words, I beseech you good Sir,
replies she, for unless they could give
me a Break-fast, or buy me Hoods,
Scarves or Linnen, I cannot receive
them as Coyn Courrent, but if you
have any ready, Sir I am for you,
Faith Madam, I have that too, and
shews her his Gold, Now Sir, says
the Lady, I like you well, and be-
lieve you a Gentleman: It's well any
thing, says he, will soften that
Obdurate Heart, and enter into
that *Adamantin* Bosom of yours: *Ob*
Sir, says she, you know what your
Fore-Fathers reported of his *Almigh-*
ty-Ship, how he melted himself into a
Shower of the same Mettle, to attain
his ends, and none of his Subjects but
may prevail on our feeble Sex, if they
take the same course; My Dear *Po-*
etical

etical Rogue, (crys our *Vintner*, half Inspired with the Fancy) how well do our Humours Suit, I can but think what a Herd of Poets could I get out of this sweet Corps of thine; Very Amorous at first starting out, pursues our Lady, sure Sir, you'l tire e're you reach the Goale; never Madam while I have your Incouragement, that shall not be wanting, replys the Lady, and thus while he began to be Sportive, she fairly led him on near one of the Traps beforementioned, where before she came up thereunto disengages her Hand from him, with pretence of taking out her Handkerchief, and he carelessly neglecting his Path, fell thereinto, at which she gave a shriek, and cries out for help, tho he stood in no great need thereof, having quickly got up; but his Breeches were full of water, so that he was forced to hast with his Mistress to a House of her Acquaintance to dry him, after which he warm'd himself in her Embraces,

and making Verses in the Interim on their Sports, but his *Rhiming* thoughts were not long before the same was changed, for his Cloaths, being dry, and having just got his Breeches on, a Constable and Officers with another Person in the habit of a Gentleman, broke in upon him, which Person Challenged the Woman for his Wife, she crying out she was lost and undone, desiring our Vintner to stand by her: at which he asked the Constable what is it Sir you charge me with, only says the Constable a Warrant for keeping Company with, and abusing this Gentlemans Wife: Deny it, cries the Woman to him behind, I abuse and lye with his Wife, he lyes in his Throat that says so: Nay Sir, says the Constable, that will appear upon the proof of the matter, which I have not to do with, come Sir you must make ready and go before a Magistrate, and if he'l take your word I am discharged, and you, (turning
to

to the Woman of the House) with
 your *she* Guest, must go with us :
 Alas Sir, what fault am I in, says
 the Old Woman, they told me they
 were Man and Wife, and what had I
 to do with them; what they have
 done, God knows, the Man looks
 like a Civil Gentleman, and I believe
 he has not abused the Gentlewoman ;
 Not abused her, *Old Band*, says the
 pretended Husband, and lye with her
 all day, fine work indeed, and you
Mrs. Whore, to his pretended Wife,
 I shall come to the Grates to see you
 beat *Hemp* in *Bridewell*, well *Cuck-*
bold, says she, since 'tis so who cares,
 this is a Gentleman not to be put upon,
 he's an Attorney and will carry the
 Cause against you right or wrong;
 Yes Sir, that I will, says our Poet :
 None of your Vaunts here Sir, cries
 the Husband, I knew one recovered
 against an other, and a Lawyer too,
 and as wise a one as your self for the
 Heart of you, 1000 pound in an Acti-

on of the Case, of Assault & Battery on his Wives Body ; Therefore leave your Boasts and give me satisfaction ; well says our frightened Gentleman, if you'll come to reason the thing , I'll do it with you in Rhyme or Prose ; No by Sword or Purse only, says the Husband, and nothing else shall serve me in this case, why Fight, Fight Sir ; yes cries he I can Fight with your betters Sir, but at present I have no Sword, I'll supply you, says the Husband, that shall not excuse you : Nay Gentlemen, cries the Constable, I must keep the Kings Peace : You say very well, says the Poet, *Mr. Constable*, and I have Read it in *Cook* upon *Littleton*, somewhere about his *Leasures*, *Fol. 103*, I forget the *Chapter*, that it is your Duty so to do, as you are the Kings Officer, and therefore Sir, you that dare Challenge me, tho I dare Fight for my Pleasure, yet I dare not break his Majesties Peace to Pleasure any Man ; that's my Answer : That shall

shall not serve you Rascal, cries the Husband, I shall have a time to meet you without a Constable, and make the Sun shine through your Lungs; bear witness, says the Vintner, he threatens me, I'll bind him to the Peace; If I had Killed you, the mends had been in your own hands, when I found you a Bed with my Wife; I know that good *Mr. Attourney*, says the Husband, but however *Mr. Officer* bring him away, I'll stay no longer, and so goes out of the Chamber in a Huffle; at which the Constable told him he must away, whereat affrighted, he desired him to see to make an end with him, and if he would take ten Guynies he would gladly give the same to be rid of him, I'll try, says the Constable, but believe it won't do, if not, I'll give him a Note for five or ten more on demand, adds he, but pray end it, for I would not go before a Justice upon any account whatsoever; whereupon the Constable went down,

& the Lady blamed him for offering him so much, but no less would suffice, the Constable told him, that he had hardly brought him to those terms, when he again came up, so that he paid the Money, and gave his Note for the rest, and glad he thus got off, went heavily away, tho knowing whose Money it was, that was obliged to pay the same, seemed the less concerned thereat; whilst the Cheats stay'd and were very Merry to see so easy a Fool gull'd of his Money; But he was not the single Person so served; nor should I have mentioned him, but for particular reasons wherein I am Indebted to him, which obliged me to make him Publick.

But as by this Trick a great many were thus Trappan'd, so I cannot forget how accidentally it happened to be in some measure the Foundation of a Gentlemans Fortunes, whose worth and generosity I am very certain never suitably to Characterise, who one day
being

very poor. The World, which he could never Fawn or Flatter, and he being fell out, was Disconsolately walking one day upon the *Thames*, came near the same place where he observed the Cheats practising their *Trappan* aforesaid, and whilst he had staid thereabouts, not above half an hour saw no less then three Persons caught therein, tho to as many as he could conveniently speak, he gave notice of the same; and amongst others who walked that way, there was coming up a Young Lady, who by her Garb seemed a Person of Quality, with a Grave Gentlewoman with her, who yet appeared as her Servant by the distance she kept, and a Footman behind them) very near the same place, to whom *Amyntor* (for so let me call his Name at this time) stept and told her, *Madam*, if you have not a great care you may be endangered in several Pits that are dugg in your Path-way, and covered with Snow by some Persons

Persons, whom as I staid here (for what reasons I know not) I have observed to be very busie in: *Sir*, says the Lady you extreamly oblige me by so necessary a Caution, and would not a little add thereunto would you please to assist me by your further directions how I may escape the same, all the while fixing her Eyes on *Amyntor*, and thinking she was not altogether unacquainted with his Face, tho she could not recover her Memory where she had seen him: Nor were his Eyes less busied having as Beautiful an Object to Entertain the same, as ever before they had been employed on, nor in Truth at first glance could either of them resist those Darts the God of Love at that moment had shot into their Souls, tho the Tyranny of the circumstances they were both under, hindred either of them from entertaining those hopes that might enliven the mutual Flame that began to burn Inwardly in their Breast, taken up
with

with such thoughts, the gladdened *Amyntor* readily accepted the Service; telling her he esteemed himself much honoured in a request of that Value, which as it carried in it self an Irresistible Authority, so did it bear more then its own intire Reward: Spare your Complements good Sir, replys the Lady, and lend me your hand, till we are past the dangers wherewith we are way-laid: Never did the surprized *Amyntor* meet ought so soft or kind as the favour he hereby was Graced with, which she having offered, took opportunity to mend her pace, till she thought her self beyond the hearing of her observants, and then in a soft tone beg'd of him his Name, and that at three the next day he would meet her in the same place, or soon after at the *Sun Tavern Westminster*, leaving that number at the Bar, adding that she entreated him not to wonder at the Request, which she had not time to explain in Regard of her obser-

ser-

vants ; the Joyful and Surprized Gentleman obeyed, and promised his due observance to so great an Honour. No more words, good Sir, says the Lady, change the Discourse, and let our Company joyn us. In fine, *Amyntor* having guided his Lady beyond danger, and waiting on her near the Shore of *Chelsey*, took his leave, and received her thanks for the favour.

Never was any Man so perplexed as *Amyntor* at an Adventure, such as this which wholly employed his thoughts, nor could he possibly reach the meaning of the same, tho withal he could not but think it meant him well, notwithstanding the constant Malice of that Fortune under whose Wheel he had lain so long oppressed, what says he to himself, may I hope to behold the day once more shine upon me, after those black Tempestuous hours the night Fate hath plung'd me in? surely no: Vain Fantastick imagination! by what false Mirrors of my self would'st

Would'st thou lead me to such an ill
 grounded opinion; yet pursues he, why
 should I Despair? I never wronged
 you, ye Powers above, you your
 selves can bear me witness; No not
 then, even when adversity it self might
 have Tempted me to leave those Rag-
 ged paths, which in pursuit of what
 you term Vertue and Honour, I have
 been so often tyred in, yet encountring
 therewith, I have Travelled to this
 Moment without the least thought of
 turning aside to the more Inticing
 Roads of Vice and baseness, choosing
 rather with my self to stand the affronts
 and Scandal of Honest Poverty, then
 mount the Icy Throne of invertuous
 Prosperity, and perhaps, adds he, you
 owe something to this perseverance,
 at least I am thus far happy, that hope
 at least comes in to Spice the draught
 of this days entertainment, which
 would otherwise have but gone but
 nauseously down with me.

With

With such thoughts did *Amyntor* spend the whole Day and Night ensuing, whilst the Ballance of hope and despair, hung as it were in *Equilibrio*, and sometimes the one would yield to the other, and then the depreſt ariſe again, but tedious was the minutes Travels till the next days appointment came about, which he exactly obſerved, and as he was walking about he heard the Clock ſtrike three; but no body came, at which being a little perplexed, he began to think the ſame a meer Cheat, and done only to Tantalize the Hunger of his hopes, without any intention of performance on the Ladies part, yet did he ſoon Check himſelf for ſuch a thought, concluding it impoſſible that ought but Truth ſhould proceed from ſo Aimable a Creature, and therefore reſolved; tho without one farthing in his Pocket, to Repair to the Tavern aforeſaid, and Truſt his better Fortunes: With this deſign he haſts thither and Inquires
for

for the same Number, but was told there was no such, hereupon he went into a Room, had a Fire kindled, and his Bottle brought up, but there did he stay the space of a long hour before any body come to him, not a little Solicitous how he should come off, and almost despairing of any Success in his Wishes, when a Drawer came up, and told him a Porter below enquired for the number, and a single Gentleman, whom he ordered to come to him, which the Porter did, and acquainted him if his Name was *Amyntor*, and staid there for a Young Lady, that she could not possibly be with him, but had sent him a Letter and this Box, giving him a little Box Sealed up: 'Tis well, says *Amyntor*, is there any Answer expected, I was paid, replies the Porter, for my pains, and only so directed to deliver it to your hands, which I have done, and that's all Sir, I have to say. *Amyntor* hereupon opened the Letter, where he found the Contents following.

Sir,

S I R,

THe careful Eyes of those in whose Custody I am, have prevented this days Appointment, tho I hope to Recover an opportunity on Wednesday next at the same hour and place, where you are to be more punctual; In the meanwhile, as a Testimony of those Impressions you have Ingraved in my Breast, be pleased to accept the Trifles in the Box, herewith delivered to you, whose Number are Three Hundred, you will the less wonder at the rashness of this Declaration, since 'tis not at the first sight of Amyntor, the Heart was Captivated that belongs to

Your,

Philenia.

Philenia! and is it possible, cries Amyntor, I should not recover that Face I have so often seen, whose Childhood I so well remember, and thereupon Kissing the Letter a Thousand times,

times, opened the Box, where the
 forementioned Trifles were found to
 be Guinies, and their number right,
 but here it was his Joy began to over-
 flow his Expression, nor could his
 Breast scarce contain those thoughts
 that enriched the same, Revolving the
 Beauty, Wit, and Fortune of his
Philenia, (as she had Termed her self)
 and who happened to be a Gentlemans
 Daughter of a great Estate lately dead,
 who was his Neighbour in the Coun-
 try where he was Born. But in fine,
 away our Lover Coached it home,
 sending for his Taylor as the fittest and
 first Person to be consulted with in
 the present Emergencies he was under,
 for to speak Truth, he was almost got
 into the *Philosophers* Garb, and Time
 that wasts all things, had Eat part of
 his Garments; The Taylor came, lit-
 tle expecting the Arrears for his last
 Suit should have been so soon dis-
 charged, and a brace more at the same
 time bespoken, with ready Yellow to
 furnish

the materials: In short, he was Rig'd against the Morning came, wherein the appointment was made, and saw himself in a becoming Garb, to visit his Dear *Philenia*, which he omitted not at the hour, nor she much beyond it, for he had not been long got into the Room e're he saw the Door open, and the Charming Mistress of his better Fate enter, the Day was not more welcome to the wandring Benighted Lost Traveller, then the sight of that Fair one to the joy'd *Aminor*, nor can I describe the Transports he was in at the Interview, recalling to mind the Lineaments of that Face whose Childhood he had known, tho so much advanced in perfection, since that he wondred not he should forget the same, sufficient let it be to acquaint you that after all Devoirs past between, and a Thousand Thanks returned for the largeness of her Favours; the Amorous Youth overcome with the kindness of her expressions, and the ac-

quain-

acquaintance she pleased to claim with
 him, tho she was not unacquainted
 with his Fortunes, flung himself at her
 Feet, and cryed out, *Ah Madam for-
 give me! If I prove Idolatrous of Good-
 ness, such as yours; yet certainly a-
 mongst those whom we are bound to
 pay our Oraisons unto, will any one
 be Jealous of that Worship the Hap-
 py Amyntor is obliged to render here,*
 since the greatest mistake they can
 attribute to his Adorations, is that they
 are made the nearest and most perfect
 Copy of themselves, their hands e're
 framed. *Rise Amyntor, says the Beau-
 teous Philenia, Rise, and let us form
 to our selves, (give me leave to say, to
 our United wishes) some Methods that
 may bring the same to perfection, for
 the time I have to stay with you is
 confined to a few Minutes, nor could
 I get hither without a Jealous obser-
 vance of those Eyes by whom I am
 too strictly watched: To be obedient
 Madam, Rising is my Duty, but my
 Happy-*

Happiness ever would be to serve at this Altar, so that having got up, *Philenia* taking him by the Hand, began to tell him, that he might well wonder (unasked) she had bestowed a Heart so freely upon him, which had Resisted so many Assaults from others: The greater *Madam*, replied *Amyntor*, is the Resemblance of your Disposition to the Heavens that Infused it, whose Influences do as well Respect the most Inferiour ~~a~~ Exalted Beings: Nor does the Glorious Planet of the Day disdain to shed the same Beams on the Humble Plant that makes the spreading Cedar Flourish; To this *Madam*, To this God-like Temper of yours, poor *Amyntor* is Indebted for his Happiness, and this *Madam*, were I to live to the utmost Period of time, as it were impossible for me to obliterate, so would it likewise in the least measure to Retaliate. Enough my Dear *Amyntor*, says the Charming *Philenia*, and pray hear me, I suppose, pursues she,

she, I need give you little Account
 of my Fortunes, tho of my misfortunes
 I would not have you remain a Stran-
 ger, since as I intend to Endow you
 with the first, I may crave your aid to
 Redress the latter: How little *Ma-*
dam, replies the *Amyntor*, should I va-
 lue my Life when laid in the Bal-
 lance with the least of your De-
 sires, Heaven and my own Heart can
 bare witness. If you Love *Philenia*,
 replies she, put a greater Price on
 what beyond the Treasures of the
 World she would Regard, and be as-
 sured, as she will never put your Life
 in hazzard, so as you value hers, she
 injoyns the Estimation of your own:
 She would not suffer the Amorous *A-*
myntor to Interrupt her, who was ready
 to do the same, and content himself
 with a Kiss from that Fair Hand that
 put him by from so doing, whilst she
 proceeded to acquaint him with her
 condition, that she was under the
 Guardianship of her Uncle, who had
 de-

signed forthwith to Marry her to a Person she could never possibly have a good opinion of, and which hitherto she had refused with contempt, tho for the Future she would change her countenance, that under the umbrage of those designed Espousals, she might Accomplish her desires in the Resignment of her self to the Embraces of her Dear *Amyntor*: To which end, says she, with one Servant only whom I have made Privy to my thoughts, I have thus projected the soothing my Lover with a feigned sort of Incouragement, I will give leave, the day be appointed for our Marriage, before which, I will desire two things of him, one that I may be Married in my Mask, and that my Servant in the like Garb may at the same time Marry your self, who I would have in the mean time pretend a Courtship to: This being the only way I can possibly see you, and whereby, when the Wedding-day comes, I'll put the change

change upon the *Squire* with my Maid
 in my Garments, and perfect *Phile-*
nia's Bliss with *Amyntor* : *Ah Madam* !
 cries the Ravish'd Lover, is it possible
 Heaven can have so great Bliss in store
 for the Happy *Amyntor* ; *Pardon me*
Dearest Madam, if such unbounded
 Joys break the Limits of that Respect
 I owe you, and force me on this Fair
 Hand, to sign a Memorial of my
 Thanks, *Oh Raptures, Extasies, Hea-*
vens, Joys, what are you in compari-
 son of those that distil themselves into
 my Inmost Soul, and in their strong
 Currents, over-flow the Expressions
 of that gratitude my Lips shewed for
 such Transcendent Favours ; *But alas*
Madam, crys he, could I lavish the whole
 Treasury of Eloquence, Adorned with
 all the Garlands of Rhetorick, how
 poor, how Sordidly poor would the
 Language appear, to speak *Amyntors*
 happiness : 'Tis needless *Amyntor*, re-
 plies *Philenia*, utterly needless to
 Flourish the thoughts in expressions of
 G this

this nature; 'tis Love only that *Philenia* requires at her Lovers hand, and assured of that, she asks no more: And of that, (replies *Amyntor*) may the day that beholds a Decay therein, Brand me with the greatest and most pregnant Marks of unpardonable Perjury; may the Showers of all Misfortunes pour down themselves upon me; may all the World, nay your self (which certainly must be the greatest Curse) despise and slight me; what shall I say, may I be forgotten of *Philenia*, and never blest again with that precious Object on which my Eyes and Heart can never be Happy unless Eternally fixt. Thus did our Lovers pass away their Minutes, when *Philenia* was forced to break off, requiring *Amyntor* that the *Friday* following he would come to her Uncles House and carry on the Design aforesaid, and all things should on her part be prepared, in pursuance thereof, telling him her Maids Name was *Lettice* that was ac-
quain-

quainted with the Intrigue, and whom he was to Inquire for in an ordinary Garb, which she left to his choice, so that renewing the Vows of Fidelity, they parted at the Boot of the Coach, that waited at the Door, to which he led her, she enjoining him to go no further.

Being thus parted, *Amyntor* went to find out some of his Friends, whom he accidentally soon after met at a Tavern, where wondring at the change of his Condition and Garb, Congratulated the same, and he more Mirthful then ordinary, past over several hours of the Evening with them, whilst in the mean time *Philenia* no less taken with her Lovers Accomplishments, then he with hers, got home, where she was no sooner come, but retiring privately with her Servant, she breath'd out nothing but the commendation and Encomiums of *Amyntor*, giving her Instructions how to receive him, and laying the Scene of his En-

ertainment, how they might meet privately together to run over their Amorous resentments, which she found her Confident ready to assist her in, but it was not long e're word was brought her the Squire came to visit her, to whom she went, and tho the thoughts of *Amyntor* made the same more unpleasant than at another time, yet did she not discover it in her countenance, but seemed kindly to receive him, and patiently to give the hearing to those commendations he was too apt to put upon himself, together with the braggs of his Estate, the Grandeur he would Live in, attaining his ends, the Servants and Attendants she should have, and the Love he would afford, with many Fulsome Complements, which he would often knock on the head, and forgetting the Phrase and Mode his Mother had set them in, would misplace and nonsensically spoil the same; So that indeed, if she mist of every other part of her satisfaction

faction in his Company, she met with sufficient matter for her Laughter, which she on all occasions improved, insomuch that he thought himself exceedingly Witty, to be the occasion of so much Mirth to the Lovely *Philenia*, and prized himself accordingly.

But to pass by, what pertains not to our Story, the day came when *Amyntor* was to make his pretended Visit, which (in a Garb for his purpose) he did not neglect, with whom after he had for some short time stayed, enquiring after the Health of his Dear *Philenia*, the Servant, his supposed Mistress, told him her Lady would the first opportunity she had wait upon him, but it happened so that her troublesome Squire and the old Alderman his Father were come in, and were at present with her, that she could not possibly make her escape, and indeed they kept her so close, that for diversion sake at last, she was resolved to send for him up by some means or other. To

which purpose she turned the Discourse, telling the Squire that she believed her Maid *Lettice* would get the start of her, and be Married before her, unless she made hast, adding that her Servant was then below and a very proper Man; how says the Esq; I hope *Lettice* you will not serve us so: My Lady, replys the Servant, is pleased for her Diversion to make Mirth with me: Pray, says *Philenia* to the Squire, get *Lettice* to bring her Lover up, that you may Examine what he is, for I have that esteem for her, I would not have her throw away her self upon one that don't deserve her: Pray Madam, says *Lettice*, let me be excused at this time, he is so Bashful a Man that he'l be ashamed to appear before his betters. Nay *Lettice*, no excuses, says the young Alderman, we must see him; to which the Uncle, and the Squires Father added, they would be glad to see her do well, and if they liked the Man they would amongst them bestow a Wedding.

ding-Dinner on her, therefore pray,
 (says her Master) fetch him up; *Lettice*
 seemed loath to obey, but at last she
 went down, and having acquainted
Amyntor with the Temper of the Old
 Folks, he had Instructions sufficient
 for the Intreague, and soon obeying the
 Summons, came up into the Parlour:
 Well, says the Uncle, I hear Friend
 you make Love to my Maid; Yes,
 an't please you Sir, says *Amyntor*, in a
 Godly way, for otherwise I would ab-
 hor the thought of it; Very good,
 says the Alderman, I believe him an
 Honest Christian; Yes indeed, says
 the Uncle, and goes on, Thou seemest
 to be a very Honest Man; Pray what
 is your Name, and what Trade are
 you? Sir, the Name that I am vulgar-
 ly called by, is *John the Zealous*, tho
 indeed that which is my Sirname is
Hewson, Son to *William Hewson* the
 Shooemaker, who was Brother and
 Partner of *Collonel Hewson*, of the
 same Trade that I my self am; by ad-
 vantage

vantage of which, and the Lords providence, I doubt not but to maintain Mrs. *Lettice* to her Hearts content : Truly a good Man, and the Son of good Parentage, says the Uncle, but pray, pursues he, what Religion are you of ? *Religion Sir !* why I hope you do not take me for a *Time-server*, an *Image-Worshipper*, a *Bagpipe-player*, or *Devourer of Porridge* ; *No Sir !* my Education hath been otherwise, I am a *True Protestant* : Do not you use to go to Church, says the Alderman ? not while the Pictures of *Aaron* and *Moses* (says *Amyntor*) stands by the Commandments, and Superstition is used there *Sir*, but I go to hear good Men, Men that Pray and Preach with Life and Fervor, from the Heart to the Heart ; these are those whose Instructions I follow ; besides *Sir*, I was of a gathered Church before these late times ; Very good, says the Uncle, pray, who was your Pastor ? *Oh Sir !* I doubt not but you were acquainted with

with that Pious, Holy, Good Man, but he is in *Exile*, now forced to fly the Persecution of the times, for being Zealous in his way, in Asserting Truth against Error, and opening our Eyes that we might see our Throats Cut, and know who did it, to Complain of them to the Magistrate the next Morning, 'twas good Mr. *Ferguson* Sir: An excellent Schollar, says the Alderman, was that Man, but his Reputation is a little Stained in the *Late Plot*: Pish, says the Uncle, I wonder Brother, you should believe a Word of those whimsical Silly contrivances, if you Talk of the *Popish Plot*, I'll then say something to you, the *Jesuitical Plot*, which Doctor *Oats* Discovered, there was a Testimony, a Witness with a Witness, where are there such now that could Swear three hours by the Clock, a whole Narrative over *verbatim*, and ne're be out of Breath, Oh! that Man hath a strange Memory, and well it was for us he had so, or as far as

Man can Judge, nor Man, Woman or Child had now been Living in the World; Yes, the Papists, says the Alderman; Alas, they are Beasts, the Brood and Litter of the Beast with many Horns mentioned in the Revelations, but Friend, pursues he to *Amyntor*, how do things go in *London*, you Live there; Yes Sir, says *Amyntor*, I do, why indeed, the work of Persecution goes on with a very heavy Hand; we are all Scattered and dispersed like Partridges on the Mountain tops, by Rogues, Constables, and Informers, who are set on by Great ones, who are led by greater, and they by the greatest, whose Guide is the *Father of Lyes*. All this while were the Eyes of *Philenia* fix'd on *Amyntor*, nor did the Squire less mind him, who took him in his Mind to be a very Parlous Fellow, tho he Laughed at him to *Philenia*, and would often Whisper her in the Ear how Silly he Talked, and how aukardly he looked,
and

and what a Dress he was in, which she gave him the hearing of, till at last the Alderman asked *Amyntor* whether ever he had been at the *Latin-School*, I have, answered he, Learnt my Grammar, I ask you, because if my Son here came to Discourse with you, he would quickly Pose you; That may easily be done, replys *Amyntor*, it is an Old Saying, *Ne Sutor ultra Crepidam*: nay, if you begin to talk *Latine*, says the Alderman, to him *Will*, turning to the Squire, *Yes Sir*, answers the Squire, I'll quickly confound his Intellects, Pray Sir, pursues he, to *Amyntor*, can you Cap Verses: *I have a very bad Memory Sir*: Look you, answers the Squire, there is,

Tityre tu patula recubans sub Tegmine fagi. with an I.

*In nova fert animus mutatas dicere
Formas.*

Now

Now these two, Friend, are the two first *Verses* of those Famous Poets, *Virgil* and *Ovid*, both which I Read at School: *Heathenish Authors*, says *Amyntor*, I never liked them, I am for Honest Mr. *Sternhold*, and his Friend Mr. *Hopkins*, who Translated our *Psalms* into *English* Meeter: At which the Squire fell a Laughing, *Heathenish Poets*, says he, why Friend, they were both as good Christians and precise *Presbyterians* as any Lived then or since, 'tis Truth *Ovid* was Banish'd out of *Rome*, and so have many Honest Men been out of *London*, why says the Uncle, pray Nephew, was there ever any *Presbyterians* at *Rome*, I see you are well Read, but if there be, I would not have it commonly talked of for the best Horse in my Stable, a few Sir, says the Squire, (when they Cut the Throat of *Julius Caesar* in the Capital) that were something *Whiggish*, well, says the Alderman, what a good thing it is to be a Schollar. Thus did the

the discourse pass between them, when *Amyntor* was dismissed, and *Lettice* ordered to make much of him as a good Man, and one that deserved her, whence he had not long been, before *Philenia* came to him, and where then, and at several other times they improved their Minutes to the Advance of those mutual Affections, which if it were possible, every day increased themselves until the last came which were to finish the Comedy; neither of the Fathers resolving to go to Church, least they should seem to joyn in the superstitious Ceremony of Marriage, according to the Rites of the Church, tho they desired to enjoy the benefit thereof to the Establishment of their Relations Fortunes, where all things being prepared on either part; *Philenia* having obtained the two Grants aforesaid, pretending her Modesty, as to her being Masked, and the Love she bore *Lettice* for the latter, which the Squire not at all suspecting, and eager to enjoy his Mistress

Mistress never Examined, so that the Habbits of *Philenia* and *Lettice* were changed, *Lettice* gave her Hand to the Squire, and *Philenia* hers to the gladdened *Amyntor*, who had provided a Coach and Six Horses to carry her immediately off to *Windsor* (where after they had been Married, the Squire having first finish'd his with *Lettice*, and left them to the same purpose) they entred and drove directly forward till they reach'd the same, and the Esq; his Home, where I shall leave them, the first to their Enjoyments, and the latter to his Disappointments, who when Dinner came in, requiring his Wife to unmask her self, she discovers the Cheat, but before hand secured of the Writings of his Estate, she told him he must make the best of it, for it was no otherwise, and that her Lady had Married as abovesaid.

A *Country-Fellow*, as he seemed by his Garb and Demeanour to be, one day standing upon the *Thames*, and viewing the several Sights and Diversions there, amongst others, cast his Eye upon a *Hackney-Coachman*, whom he observed had taken a great deal of Money for carrying Passengers to and fro in his Coach, began to think the same a Curious thing, and resolved to know his Price, and Ride as others did, so that at length, (it growing towards the Evening) the Coach driving near, and ready to take up a Fair; *Mon* (says the Country-Fellow) *Chil tell thee I se moind to Roid in your what d'y'e cal't, that Che may tell her Volks in the Country when Che gets back to Devonshair, how vinely respected che was at London Town: Well, says the Coachman, so thou may'st if thou wilt, But Honest Friend* (replies the Bumpkin,

kin) *che hath but little Money, what must che give thee?* No more then others do (says the Coachman) a shilling is my Price; *Alas Mon, a whole Shilling, that's too much, but where must I Roid then:* You must go in at that Door, says the Coachman, and set down there; *a very Vine place indeed, but have che no cheaper Zeats* (says the Country-man,) Yes, (replys the Coachman) if you'l Ride behind you may do it for Six-pence, as far as *Westminster*: *Behoind* (says the Fellow) *No God Zoores, that's no place of Honour, but if Chil let me Roid in that place before where you Roid your self, Chil give the Six-pence for thy Koindness:* Well, agreed, (says the Coachman) I shall not long stay for a Fair, and then you may get up, which immediately fell out, so that lending the Country-man his hand, he set him in the Box, and drove on towards *Westminster*, where the Fellow all the way highly commended his Roiding, till he

he came beyond the *savoy*, where on the fuddain he desired the Coachman to stop, telling him, *his Head did so Zwim, he could not endure to Roid further, and prayed che might be Sot down*, to which the Coachman consented, and help'd him off, who returned his thanks, and gave him two or three scrapes, thanking him for his Courtesie, after which the Coachman drove on towards *Westminster*, and the Countryman to the Shore; But as it happened, the Coachman being got to his Journeys-end, and Landing his Fair, feeling in his Pocket for change, found that *Chil* had got Pocket and Money both, to the value of Four Pound odd Shillings away with him, at which time it was too late to bethink himself, or Curse his Ill Fortune, *C/i* being got far enough from the *what dy'e cal't*, to be concerned thereat, where we leave the Coachman Railing, and his Neighbours Laughing at the Frolick.

I should now draw to a Conclusion of our so much framed *Frost*, did I not think it necessary to subjoyn some short Account how the same wrought upon the River *Below-Bridge*, whose share in this Relation, ought as well to be Remarked, as what we have already Treated of, and which indeed, as the same was more unusual, deserves our Regard, for even here the severity of the late Season was so Tyrannous, that from the *Tower* downwards to *Gravesend*, its Power bore Sway, altered the Ancient Government of the said Stream, and bound its Liquid course to its more Rigid Laws: Upon which Booths of Entertainment were Built, and all sorts of Sports, Devises and Diversions were carried on and managed there, together with a great Concourse of People Resorting thereunto as above: Nor indeed (did I not intend .

intend to contract this Treatise) should I fail of Rehearsing as many notable Relations as those you have already heard, which happened upon the said Scene, for a touch of which only, I shall content my self with two or three of the most remarkable, leaving the rest to be supplied by the Readers Inquiry, or if Incouraged to a Second Edition, more amply Relate.

I begin therefore with that of two Gentlemen, who walking with their Mistresses over the said River from *Wapping* to the other side, it fell out upon passing of a Board that was laid a cross a crack of Ice for the convenience of Passengers, the said Gentlemen having both set Foot on the said Board at the same time, either of them standing upon their Honour, contended who should first Tread the same, not a little Jealous that if they yielded the Priority, one to the other, the yielder would loose esteem in the Favour of his Mistress, who were both
ready

ready enough to advance the Quarrel, thinking themselves concerned therein, so that being Resolute, they Justled for the way, and in fine upon the struggle both of them fell into the Water, and soundly Duck'd each other, but being soon got up by the Assistance of the Laughing Spectators, they would have prosecuted the further difference by their Swords, when hindred by the Crowd, they drew a little aside, and whispered into either of their Ears their Names, and changing their Gloves, appointed the next Morning at Seven to decide the matter upon the said River, just against *Cuckholds - point*, where in short, after they had got the convenience of shifting themselves, and out-slept the ensuing Night, tho I cannot imagine very quietly, neither of our *Heroes* being over-willing to meet, which, whether I could attribute to the coolness of their late adventure, or that of their Courage, I dare not determine; for in short, Honour prevail-

ed.

ed over Self-Love, so far at least as to go to the place appointed, both hoping that the other would fail, and resolving not to venture the catching of a Cold in staying a minute beyond the hour; To which end, they had set their Watches something of the farthest, till at last they came, and as Fate ordained it, met, tho in good Truth, as both have privately confest to their Friends since then, they were very Sorry to see the faces of each other, thereby falsely Judging the forwardness of their Adversaries Courage, so that they began to consider with themselves how with the *Foxes* Skin to supply what was wanting in the *Lions* Hide, and over-reach either of them his Companion: To which purpose, the first being the least concerned, in very hard terms fell upon the other for the late affront, telling him, *he was glad to find him Indued with such Resolution as to meet, since he doubted not but to punish him for his Incivilities, adding, that he*
would

would certainly be *Returned* on him, and serve him up as a *Morsel* to Feast the *Starving Animals* that watched his fall. Which put the other into a fit of trembling, tho he strove all that he could to hide the same, and as much for an answer, which at length he thus framed, Think not Sir *Bragg* I am to be frightened with words, 'tis *Action Sir, Action I am for*, nor are you the first that have by this good Sword, and better Arm fallen a Victim to my Fury, tho I must confess, since I see you a Person of Honour, and that both us have thus far proceeded, which may stay the Clamorous censure of the World against us, I should (did it consist with your liking) think of some Accommodation, ere I give my Anger a loose, which if once I let go the Rein of, will be Impossible to be stoppt in its *Cariere* of Death, till it hath reach'd the Goal of your Life or mine: Therefore, Sir, in short, take hold of opportunity by the Fore-lock, and consider

sider Peace or War, Safety or Glory,
 Life or Death: Death Pale and Fro-
 zen, *Sir*, is before you, and the same
 thing to me, come take your choice, and
 I am for you, whereupon out flew *Bil-
 boe*, which was Ushered into the Light
 with a Guard of *Dammeees*, and be-
 gan to Flourish it self, and make a
 Pass or two against the Air, with a *here
 I shall have you, and there I shall have
 you, --- ha Boys! --- he falls.* Faith,
 says our other Warriour to himself,
 it may be so, *Pox on him*, he thrusts
 like a *Tartar*, would I was well off this
 and at home a Sleep, the Devil should
 mannage the next Quarrel for me, but
 hang it he's for an Accommodation,
 I'll try him, at which, adds he aloud,
 I see you are prepared, nor am I less be-
 hind hand with you, advancing like-
 wise his Glistering point (tho neither
 of them very near the other) but since
 pursues he, you are desirous of Peace,
 I would have you to know I am not so
 Voracious of any Mans Blood, but I
 would

would satisfie my Anger at a less rate, could I tell as well how to satisfie my own Honour, which urges me to Revenge, and therefore, *Sir*, propose how the latter may be saved, I'll be contented to wave the former, 'tis nobly Resolv'd, (says our other Duellist) and assure your self good *Sir*, not the last drop of Blood that fills these Veins is half so much in esteem as my dearer Reputation, which in this Dilemma, I know not how better to preserve then by this Method, which even now came into my thoughts: Name it, *Sir*, replies the other, beginning to be more encouraged, and I'll try to accept it, 'Tis what will Establish both our Reputations, or I would Scorn the Proposal, (adds the first) and that is, *Sir*, do you stand me, and I'll do the like by you, or you give me the first Wound in my Arm, and I'll Repeat a Second in yours, whereby both of us shall seem amongst our Friends to be by the other disabled, and come off from this

Affair

Affair, with the Reputation, and without the hazard that makes all Men Famous: A cunning Proposal indeed, thought the first, (but I am got on his Blind-side, or I am deceived, to himself) and pursues he, well Sir, I think 'tis well designed, here being no Witnesses of this Agreement but our selves, who are too far concerned to Reveal the same, if therefore as you have proposed, I may wound you first, I'll do it very tenderly, and then is your turn to do the like by me; withal my heart, says he, I stand you Sir, holding out his Arm, which the other took the advantage of, and fairly past his Rapier through the same, after which having stopt the Blood, and bound up the same with his Handkerchief: Now, says he, do you stand as I did, and I am ready for you: *No Faith*, replies t'other, the Fool will not be so caught, Advance a step further at your Peril, I like not such Peaceable Wounds, one of them smarts more then ten gain-

ed in Battle, and a Man Dyes with less pain then he receives the least of them: But *Sir*, replys the Wounded Spark, Men of Honour as we are should Regard our words, and since 'tis past, I expect your performance. If in Honour you think I am Bound to a submission, to what may Inconvenie me (says he) you may exact a satisfaction for a failure therein, wherein I assure you I am ready to Answer you, but in Faith *Sir*, 'tis the better way to be Silent, and let the World imagine I disarmed you, which is many a good Mans misfortune, and so put up. Mr. *Accommodator*, do ye think I came hither to Play the Fool? no, thank the Stars 'tis no worse, and be satisfied your Arm has felt what your Heart might, as far as I know, e're this; with these, and many more Taunts to the like purport, was our poor Duellist forced to content himself, tho in plain Truth, glad it was no worse with him, bearing the same patiently; they
agreed

agreed to leave the Field of Battle, and repair homewards, in the way to which he engaged his Antagonist on promise of Future Peace to be Silent, which he soon consented to, shook hands and parted; both of them (as many other of our Bullies) for some time preserving the Name of Men of Vallour and Courage, till the same came to be dispersed by means of the Mistress of the unwounded to whom he revealed it in his Drink, and who not sparing of their Credit bruited it about, till it became Publick, and our *Hero* since sufficiently Ridiculed and pointed at for the same.

Whom I shall at present take my leave of, and proceed to another Scene of Adventures, that happened amongst a Company of Jovial Seamen, who resolving one days improvement of Mirth had met at a certain Booth not far distant from *Cuckolds-point* aforesaid where for their Entertainment they had bespoke a large Bowl of their

much loved Liquor *Punch*, to which they
 ell, and so often Replenished the same;
 hat in few hours their Brains began
 o Sail, and each of them to grow as
 Touchy and Quarrellsome as their
 Wives at a more Select Gossiping in
 a good House on the Shore where they
 went to be, when Brandy and Hot Sup-
 ings had sufficiently kept pace with
 their Tattle for a Winters Evening,
 insomuch that from their private Jarrs,
 they made a Match fix and six of a side
 to send for Cudgels and try whose Skull
 was hardest, which in fine being done,
 before the Door of the Booth they fell
 to it, and having beat each other into
 a better posture of Sobriety then they
 first engaged in, some of them were for
 the Surgeons, and others for their Rest,
 being sufficiently bruised; whilst the
 Victors, to the number of five, fell a-
 gain to a New Bowl, and Caroused it
 about, till such time the Day Light
 was drawn in, and they bethought
 themselves of parting, which they
 quickly

quickly did; but the Air taking their Brains, set them all on the Ramble, amongst whom two got a Shore at *Wapping*, where getting into a Brandy Shop they compleated their Load, and after some hours, getting to their own Homes, they Lying both in one House their Women happening elther of them to be in no better a condision, had some time before got to Bed, and the Fellows mistaking their Doors, tumbled into each others Wife, and thinking the next Morning to prevent a curtain Lecture, fell to work a Reconciliation by the old way, till the days approach discovered the Deceit; and either of them found himself a true Citizen whilst in the mean time 2 of the other three had got about seven or eight of the Clock as far as *Greenwich*, where Rouling about the street, a Gentleman being with some of his Friends at a Tavern espied them, and resolving for Sport with them, called them in, where after they had made them Drink round

with them, they were for Improving their Mirth ; To which end one of them went down to the Master of the House, and inquired whether he had not a half-headed Beadstead, or some kind of Hammock wherein they might lay these two Seamen, and when they fell a Sleep use some invention or other to draw them up to the top of the Room. To which he Replied, that he could lay a Bed on the Floor and put a good strong Quilt under it, to which they might fasten Ropes at each Corner, and if they would be at the charge of Ropes and Pullies he would see the same prepared : The Gentlemen agreed, and ordered the same to be made ready in one of the highest Roofed Rooms the House could spare ; To which work the Master Repaired, and the Gentleman to his Company, where after some short time, the Fellows being very Drunk, and the Servants had acquainted them all things were ready, they sent up a Drawer or

two with the Seamen, and unstripping them, laid them on the Bed, prepared as before, where shewing either of them the conveniencies of a Chamber-pot that stood on each side, if they had occasion for the same in the Night, they took notice thereof, and were quickly a Sleep, at which time they drew up the Bed and Seamen together to the very top of the Room, where for several hours they Slept soundly, till one of them waked, and feeling for the Chamber-pot aforesaid, he could not find it, at which waking his Companion: *Tom*, says he, *what a Pox is become of the Pot*, it stands, says he, by your Bed-side, I remember well enough they shewed it us last Night: I can't find it, replys *Will*, get out and look for it, sayst other; At which up got *Will*, and thinking to go out of the Bed softly, down he came on the Floor: *The Devil take them*, (crys he at the bottom) *they have left open the Trap-Door, and I am fell into the Cel-*

lar ; sayest thou so, replys Tom, prithee then get's a little Small-Beer, for I am cursedly a Dry : Plague on 'em, crys Will, I do nothing but break my Shins, here is no Barrells but Joyn-stools and Chairs as I can find, nor Chamber-pot neither ; but Oh ! says he, here's the Chimney, where he Discharges his Load at both ends, and where the Gentleman had ordered their Cloaths to be laid ; after which Will being very cold, perswades his Companion to creep out of the Bed softly on the other side, and feel with his Hand for the Trap-Door, aforesaid, that he might help him up e're he was Starved ; To which Tom consented, and geting out on his side, fell down to his Companion ; what the Devil, says he, I think all the Room is Trap-Doors ; Will, where art thou, I am down too : Tis some comfort to have a Companion, (crys he) but what shall we do to get up again ; Nay, says Tom, that I can't tell, but prithee direct me to the Chimney, and we'll consider of

of it, whereupon *Will* lent him his hand, and conducted him thither, where he likewise unloaded himself. The Gentlemen all this while placed not so far from them, but they overheard them, but would not let any Body go to answer them, tho their noise was sufficient to wake the whole House, insomuch that at last they were forced to be contented, and take up as close together as they could, on the Stools, where for two hours they lay, whilst in the mean time the Bed without any noise was let down again into its place, and the Gentlemen came in at such time as Day appeared, and inquired how their Honest Seamen did: *Ab Sir*, says *Tom*, almost Starved to Death: why, what make you out of Bed then, replies the Gentleman; at which looking up, they saw all things in the same places as the Night before, and wondred what the Devil ailed them they could not find the Bed, imagining they were Bewitched, and Staring
at

at each other as if an Apparition had crossed them : *Why indeed, (says Will) we had a fall from our Beds (as we supposed) into the Cellar, and with all the search we could make, we could not find any means to reach the same again, and tho we called as loud as ever we could nobody heard us, or would come to our Assistance : That's strange, says the Gentleman, we have been Bowfing all Night in the House, and should have heard you, besides the Bed is on the Floor, and how is it possible you should fall thence, I believe 'tis only a Dream, 'twas a Plaugy hard fall for a Dream, says Tom, I'me sure my Crupper is well nigh out of Joynt ; Nor have I escaped better, says Will, I believe my back parts will wear the Devils Colours this two Months, but pray Gentlemen, let's go to Bed and warm our selves, for we have lain here these three hours :* By all means replied the Gentlemen, and let them have some Wine and Brandy. *Brandy with a Pox to them, says*

says one of the Drawers, looking in the Chimney, *here's a House with two Nasty Rogues, they deserve Brandy indeed*: Why Friend, says Tom, we could not find a better conveniency than the Chimney, you shall have something for your pains to cleanse it: At which the Gentlemen looking about, but what made you thus bewray your Cloaths, say the Gentlemen. Our Cloaths, says Will, we could neither find Cloaths nor nothing else Sir; they are carefully stowed I'll assure you, says another: Nay, if you are such Beasts, farewell, and so out they went, leaving the two Companions to bewail their Ill Luck, and wondering how it was possible for to be under such mistakes, Swearing at one another, and turning the fault upon either of them, till at length the Gentlemen ordered their Cloaths to be cleansed, and had others lent them in the mean time, bidding them get up, which they did, and again setting them to Drinking, till

till about Five in the Evening, they
 dismiss them homewards, whether they
 went, and reached the same in an hour,
 just at such time as they found their
 Wives and Neighbours met to follow
 the Corps of their single Friend, whom
 they left dead Drunk upon the *Thames*,
 Terribly startled were they at the
 News, and more when the Constable
 came and Seized them as his Murder-
 er, no excuses would serve, every bo-
 dy judging they had Fled for the same,
 who were last in his Company, and
 whose Head was broken, which was
 the cause of his Death, as the same
 was given out. Being thus Seized,
 they were carried to a Neighbouring
 Justice, who not being within, the
 Officer to secure them, clapt them up
 in the Cage at *Wapping*, where after
 they had stayed the Gazing Stock of
 the People about two hours, word was
 brought, that in the mean time the
 Neighbours being all Assembled at the
 Funeral aforesaid, and Cherriping a-
 bout

about the Hot Suppings, just as they
 were about to take up the Corps, and
 Bare it to the Church-yard, some that
 late nearest the Coffin heard a Groan,
 and soon after all the Company a great
 Knocking and Disturbance therein,
 which made every one affrighted, ready
 to shift for themselves, when amongst
 the rest, one more Armed with Wine
 than the others, resolved to see the
 event of it, and going up to the Corps,
 Speaks to it, *In the Name, &c. Art
 thou Dead or Alive*, says she, *Alas, I
 know not*, says the Body, *but I am sure
 I am so pent up I can scarce stir or breathe*,
 and this in a strange sort of Tone as
 if the same came through the crevices
 of the Coffin, but (adds he) *Pray tell
 me where I am, and where's my Wife*,
 are you, says the Woman! why
 you are in a Coffin, and going to be
 Buried, here are your Neighbours about
 you, and ready to carry you away,
 therefore lye still you Ghost as you are,
 a fright us thus no more, and we'll see
 you

you decently laid in your Grave: Good Neighbour Johnson, for I know you now by your voice, says he, let me first see my Friends Faces, and take my last leave of them: why you speak as if you were alive, says she.; I don't know, but I think I could go if the Coffin were opened; At which the good Women rejoycing, had conveyed the News thereof to his Wife, who quickly came and released him, and with many false Tears, Congratulated his escape, tho indeed finding him Drunk as aforesaid, she had by some Potion brought him into this condition to afright him another time from the like courses: he used to beat her severely when in Drink for old faults, which at such times he chiefly remembered, so that by this means he became more fearful of offending for the Future, and the two Seamen, his Companions, released of the Cage and this Accusation.

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